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Niles bids farewell to utilities manager, welcomes new interim

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Outgoing Utilities Manager Jeff Dunlap (left) poses with Interim Utilities Manager Madison Mosher.

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — After 12 years of dedicated service to Niles, Jeff Dunlap is retiring from his role as the city's Utilities Manager. Stepping in to guide the department is Madison Mosher, Niles' Assistant Utilities Manager who has been working for the city for almost two years.

The Niles City Council unanimously moved to appoint Mosher to interim utilities manager effective May 5.

Dunlap submitted his notice of retirement effective July 13. Jeff Dunlap will move to a support/mentor role and will continue to serve the City as the Building Official until his retirement.

"It was time," Dunlap said. "We're fortunate to have Madison. She's a fresh face and has fresh ideas. I think it's going to really be exciting for the rate payers in the city. I think she's going to do a good job."

Born and raised in St. Joseph, Mosher worked in South Bend doing environmental consulting after graduating from college. Before working for the City of Niles, she worked in compliance with Indeck Energy Center.

Dunlap has spent more than 45 years in local government. Prior to his work with the city, Dunlap was employed with Niles Charter Township from 1983 to 2013. He worked as a police officer for the township from '83 to 2005, when he became the township's building official.

While he is proud of what he has been able to accomplish for the city, the Pucker Street Dam project is one he is especially proud of.

"It was difficult to visualize what that could become and it turned out

See INTERIM, Page A6

EPS board talks building, communication updates

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg School Board heard updates regarding building and communication updates at their meeting on Monday.

Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs updated the board on the progress related to last year's bond for improvements to multiple buildings. Contractors have begun to review the former church property at 27341 U.S. 12 for expansion of school services at the location. The first pre-bid meeting was also held regarding the first part of a pickup and drop off drive loop for the intermediate and primary schools. The loop project will be split into two parts to avoid delays that could arise while awaiting approval from the Michigan Department of Transportation. The board also approved establishing change order authorization limits, staying within the guidelines of the approved bond, but allowing for faster decision making as changes may arise during construction.

The board also approved the move of Information Technology Data Tech Jared Chodzinski to the position of Director of Technology. Chodzinski has worked for the EPS IT Department for more than five years.

EPS will be adopting a new website and communication app after working to answer feedback from the most recent strategic plan, noting a need for a better communication option for parents. District staff reviewed several options and sought feedback from other districts before selecting Apptegy. According to the presentation, the change to the district will be cost-neutral, will unify communications through all grades, and can link to existing athletics tools.

The board received several highlights of specific staff and teachers during the meeting.

Title Aide Dawn Mummaw received recognition as the Support Staff member of the month. Mummaw, who received multiple nominations for the recognition, was recognized as "a crucial part to our tier 1 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports team and is always looking for creative ways to influence our Eddies to strive to be safe, respectful, and responsible."

Erin Soucek, vice president of the Edwardsburg Education Association, highlighted the efforts of three teachers from Edwardsburg High School. Special education teacher Kim Sawyer was recognized for her 29-year career at EPS, including her work in elective courses meant to assist students as they transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce. Social studies teacher Stephen Wright was highlighted for 19 years of teaching at EPS, including his work creating the rigorous but popular AP US History class. Stephanie McElwrath was recognized for 18 years in the profession, with nine years at EPS, where she teaches Digital Design & AP Computer Science, noted for building confidence in students regardless of whether digital design or computer science are a part of their future careers.

The next board of education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, May 19 in the District Administrative Center Board of Education Room.

"The NODE is the new outdoor gathering space in downtown Niles, built on a former section of 2nd Street. First appearing during the COVID-19 pandemic as a safe space for outdoor gathering, the NODE became a celebrated part of the community, leading to the permanent construction."

NILES CELEBRATES RETURN OF THE NODE

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Niles Outdoor Dining Experience made its long-awaited debut Saturday, April 26 and community members and business owners alike celebrated all day long.

Niles Main Street DDA hosted a grand opening event Saturday filled with events and live music. The event began with Movement & Mimosas led by Jessica Nelson and refreshing sips from Niles Brewing Company.

Bee Crafty, 103 E. Main St., had a table set-up for mug decorations and Sport Track Physical Therapy had a new Innovative rehab technology demonstration.

Games, pop-up fun, music and more took place until 10 p.m., featuring local talent from Niles youth before leading to sets from Marc Sucks, Shreddy Tendergrass, Hey Annie, and the headlining act of Abbie Thomas and the Crazy Hearts.

The NODE is the new outdoor gathering space in downtown Niles, built on a former section of 2nd Street. First appearing during the COVID-19 pandemic

See NODE, Page A8

CHARLES NELSON | ON BASE PRODUCTIONS

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Cassopolis, Edwardsburg drama programs nominated for WAVE Awards

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

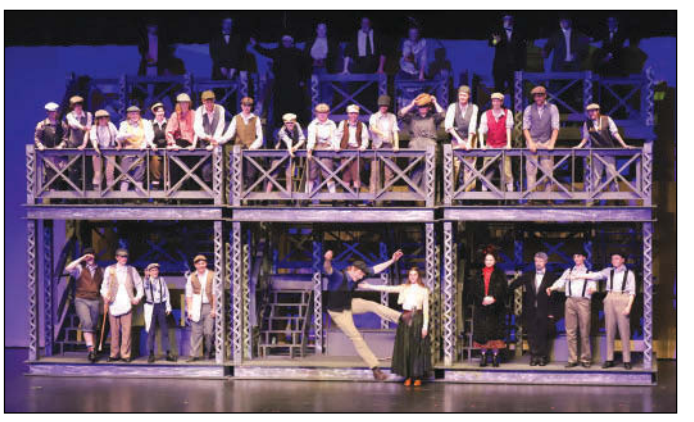
BENTON HARBOR — Local high school drama students will get a taste of the Tony Awards next month.

The Cassopolis and Edwardsburg drama programs are among the nominees for the 2024-2025 WAVE Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre. Cassopolis is nominated for three awards including "Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical," for its most recent production, "Beetlejuice Jr." Edwardsburg was nominated for 10 awards including Outstanding Musical Production for its latest performance, "Newsies."

Sponsored by the Lake Michigan College Visual & Performing Arts Department, the WAVE Northwest Indiana.

Loosely designed after Broadway's famed Tony Awards, the WAVE Awards is meant to recognize, encourage and promote excellence in high school

See WAVE, Page A8



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Edwardsburg was nominated for 10 WAVE awards including Outstanding Musical Production for its latest performance, "Newsies."

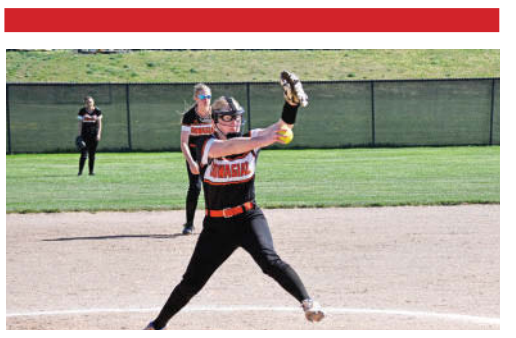
OBITUARIES

Donald Bell
Eleanor Heminger
Dawn Adell King
Robert Edgar Mead
Cathy Sue Phillips
Lon Michael Frucci
Karen Lee (Schott) Dean
John Leslie McIntyre, Sr.
A7

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"From furnace to air conditioning..... some things never seem to change."

A2



Dowagiac softball sweeps Benton Harbor B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Good job Niles! The NODE is fantastic. It is a great addition to downtown.

Lots of money being tossed around with these draft picks for guys who have not proved themselves in the NFL. It ain't college football.

I'm seeing more and more Sunday postal deliveries. I'd like to see less work on Sundays, but I understand our world has changed.

Remember the outrage of Obama wearing a tan suit? Trump is the only one to wear a blue suit to the Pope's funeral. Why? Is it ego or just stupidity? He just makes the US look bad over and over again.

The Biden administration paid illegal migrants when they arrived & Trump wants to pay them to leave. Time to rid ourselves of both of these fiscally senseless parties before we have no cents left.

From furnace to air conditioning..... some things never seem to change.

High school seniors will soon be looking for summer and career jobs. Local businesses, please let them know what is available in our area.

The average cost of a new car in the US is $48,401. I don't know how people can afford them and certainly their retirement savings must not be of any concern to them. Some people are taking eight year loans on new cars.

I was recently surprised to find out my furnace has been leaking carbon monoxide. Get your furnace tested today! This is called the silent killer for a reason. Headaches, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, blurred vision, shortness of breath, weakness, confusion and sleepiness are just some of the symptoms.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy	30% Chance Rain Showers	40% Chance Rain Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
64° 43°	62° 49°	62° 49°	63° 51°	67° 49°	68° 53°

NILES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRAISE RETURN OF NODE

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The grand opening of the Niles Outdoor Dining Experience last weekend was a hot topic at Monday's Niles City Council meeting.

Several council members attended the festivities Saturday and praised Main Street DDA Director Lisa Croteau, the DDA board and volunteers for organizing a successful event.

"I also wish to thank all the people who worked very hard to provide us with a great Saturday," said Ward 1 Councilmember Gretchen Bertsche. "I think this is the start of something beautiful."

"It's beautiful," added Ward 2 Councilmember Sheila Koebel, who owns The Study and Underground Laugh Lounge on 4th Street. "It looks great and I think as a person who owns two businesses down there, let's just say my sales increased a substantial amount Saturday night and people came up the hill. That was part of my struggle – are they even going to come up the hill to see me? I think Lisa told me it took 280 steps from the NODE to my door. They did come and the funny part was they might have come to get a drink but once they got in the door, they decided it was a little chilly outside so they sat down by the fireplace and stayed.

"We had a full house pretty much all night… I think it's going to bring people downtown and it's just the start of many other things to come."

Ward Four Councilmember Jessica Nelson voiced support for the NODE during Monday night's meeting, believing it provides a valuable meeting space for community members.

"When you get down there, it's representative of Niles," Nelson said. "There's people who look like you. There's people who don't look like you. And that's what it takes to bring us together is proximity. And so, we have a space now outside where we can get together. We can let all the nonsense go and just enjoy each other's company and the music that's down there."

Nelson believes the NODE has the potential to change the lives of people.

"It was a full circle moment for my family because [my son Henry's] first time performing on a stage was an open mic night at the first version of the NODE," Nelson said. "To have my son be able to perform and see the growth and see the joy and people getting up and dancing was particularly special. It changes lives; we sometimes think about how inconvenient it is that we have to drive around the block but I'll put up with that inconvenience every single day when I know that people's lives are being changed for the better and we're building strength in our community."

See PRAISE, Page A7

CHARLES NELSON | ON BASE PRODUCTIONS

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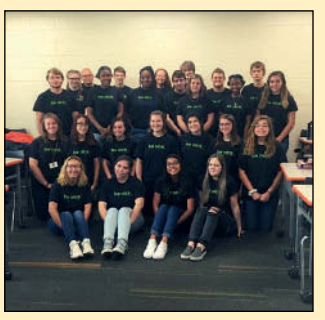

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Buchanan commissioners receive construction updates

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Buchanan City Commissioners received construction updates Monday and took action on items related to the re-establishment of the Downtown Development Authority, emergency paving work and a new historic district in the city.

In addition to the ongoing $19.4 infrastructure project, emergency road work is set to start next week on repairs to sections of Liberty, Terre Coupe, Rynearson, Red Bud Trail and River Street. City Manager Tony McGhee estimated that the work on those five streets should be done by the end of May.

McGhee described the work on those streets as not a long term solution but one that will last two to five years and make those streets drivable in the short term.

Monday, City Commissioners awarded the contract for the work to Rieth-Riley Construction. The company submitted a bid of $342,282.50 which was the low bid of two received. The commission had approved the emergency work earlier this year and had budgeted $500,000 for the project.

"We are doing things strategically with the right money, the right place and the right people," Mayor Mark Weedon said. He and other city officials as well as two downtown business owners asked people to support local businesses, stay positive and not pay attention to negative social media posts.

McGhee also gave an update on the rest of the construction work going on in town. Work on Schirmer Parkway to extend the McCoy Creek Trail out to River Street and then out to the River St. Joe Brewery and beyond should start next week and be done by May 30, he said.

In addition, he said crews are making good progress on the retaining wall on Front Street in front of the Hoven funeral home-which should also be done by the end of May. Work on the Days Avenue culvert is running about two to three weeks behind schedule but the site will be cleaned up for the opening of the Farmers Market this Saturday.

As for the big infrastructure project, McGhee said people have to understand that the work to replace storm sewer, water and sanitary sewer lines takes time as all three lines are at different depths. "People ask why they're digging up the street over and over," he said. "It's because the pipes are at different levels."

In addition to the streets like Red Bud Trail and Third Street that are currently torn up, Front Street and other downtown streets will be ripped up starting May 19. He said the Front Street/Red Bud Trail intersection will be one of the more difficult parts of the overall project with a lot of items to be done there.

"The work is not easy to do," McGhee said. "Everyone was excited about talking about the facelift for the city but they will think it's the end of the world by July and August. Then by November, people will think it could have been worse. When it's all done, we will have a much better city than before."

He was among the city leaders urging people to support local businesses and not "snip" at each other. "We can tear down each other or support each other," he said. "Other communities haven't done this much work at one time but we haven't done the needed work for 25 years."

Monday's meeting also featured action on a number of other items, ranging from taking the first steps toward reconstituting the Downtown Development Authority to supporting efforts to establish another National Register of Historic Places district in the city.

Commissioners approved a first reading of the amendment to the DDA ordinance which updates it to the 2018 changes in state law. The commission had dissolved the DDA in 2020 and directed city staff to bring it back last fall.

McGhee said the next steps will be to adopt the ordinance amendment at the May 12 meeting and then appoint people to the DDA board. He said the push is on to get the DDA and the board in place in time to capture taxes this summer through tax increment financing.

Local historian Peter Lysy reported on the newest proposed National Historic Register district in the city for the Days Avenue neighborhood. If approved, the new district would join other historic districts in the city including ones for the North and West neighborhoods as well as the Clark Equipment Complex.

Commissioners approved hiring Kurt Garner Historic Preservation of Plymouth, Indiana for $9,800 to do the research and write the National Register nomination. The company is also working with the Buchanan Preservation Society to submit another nomination for Pears Mill and the Mill Race.

Funds for the $9.800 will come from the Gateway Community Foundation contributing $5,000 and the city $4,800. In addition, the preservation society is paying the company $4,000 for the Pears Mill/mill race part of the work. If the nomination is accepted, property owners in the new district could qualify for federal tax credits.

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Brandywine looking to apply for sidewalk grant

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — The Brandywine school district is looking to apply for a $300,000 grant this year to add sidewalks to the 17th Street and Bell Road intersection near Brandywine Middle/High School.

Superintendent Travis Walker and student body representative Alleyna Volman both spoke about the project at Monday's Board of Education meeting. This was the first meeting for Volman who the board selected last month to be the student representative on the board.

Walker said the district is looking to apply for a $300,000 Safe Routes to School grant in partnership with Niles Township and the Berrien County Sheriff's Department. He said there are currently no sidewalks in the area of the 17th/Bell intersection and the goal is to have sidewalks on at least one side of the two roads to address pedestrian safety concerns.

Volman said that a committee has been formed to work on the grant and that the issue has just recently been brought to students' attention. She said that students are being surveyed on how they get to school-whether they walk, drive, ride a bike, take the bus or are dropped off.

"More kids than you think walk to school," she said. "Not everyone drives or takes the bus. It brings to light the fact that we really do need sidewalk because it's really dangerous to be walking on the road in the snow and dark. I think sidewalks would really help."

The Safe Routes to School program is a state program supported by federal funding. School districts can apply for both mini grants of up to $15,000 per school or major grants of up to $300,000 per school for infrastructure improvements.

Also Monday, board members approved the contract for one of the bond issue projects being done this summer. Brandywine voters approved a $22 million bond issue last May to fund a variety of projects over the next three years such as a new performing arts center and career technical education center at the middle/high school.

The work approved Monday is for the construction of secure entrances at three district school buildings. The district had anticipated that it would cost $275,000 per building to put in the secure entrances and the winning bid came in at under $628,000.

Walker said that there are a number of vendors involved in the secure entrances project including Midwest Glass & Mirror LLC, E&L Construction Group, Custer Inc., Vork Brothers Painting and Electrical Maintenance & Construction. The only other bond work to be done this summer will be resurfacing of the high school track.

Todd Champion of Christman Construction reported on the project to the school board at Monday's meeting. He said it has been extremely helpful to see the bids coming in under budget. He noted that renovations will start as soon as school is out this June with ceilings, light fixtures and flooring removed.

"We will be removing part of the vestibule at the middle/high school and the elementary school with a little more work at Merritt Elementary," he said. "We will be adding a sidewalk and replacing both vestibule doors there. The main goal is to create a secure entrance for visitors and screen who is allowed into the building."

Monday's board meeting featured discussion on a number of topics including the possible addition of a personal finance course for high school seniors and making it a graduation requirement.

Middle/High School Principal Evan Winkler spoke about the proposal and answered board members' questions. Board members appeared to like the idea of adding the course but debated whether to make it a graduation requirement. The matter will be brought back for action at the May 12 meeting.

Board members approved the second budget amendment of the 2024-25 year.

Assistant Superintendent Ray Wilburn reported last month that general fund revenue is now expected to be between $17.4 million and $17.5 million, with expenditures around $17.6 million. That budget deficit is smaller than the first budget amendment last fall where expenditures exceeded revenue by $525,000.

He said if nothing changes by the end of the fiscal year in June, the district would have a fund balance of $3.8 million and a fund equity of $21.7 million. He said the district has enough funds on hand to cover three months of expenditures if no revenue was coming in.

The fund balance as a percentage of expenditures is at around 20 percent which Wilburn and Walker said is a healthy level.

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Area residents sentenced on assault, drug charges

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Area residents were sentenced for assault, drug and other charges Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Austin Elliott-King Ross, 25, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to assault and battery and was sentenced to 18 months probation, 15 days in jail with credit for one day served, 40 hours of community service and $645 in fines and costs.

Ross

The incident occurred Feb. 25, 2023 in Niles. Ross had initially been charged with felony criminal sexual conduct but a Berrien County Trial Court jury deadlocked and a mistrial was declared.

Ross's victim spoke before sentencing. She said she had been in therapy since the incident and only goes out by herself to work or school. She said she thought it was unfair that Ross didn't have to register as a sex offender since he pled to a misdemeanor. "I don't want others to go through what I did," she said.

Defense attorney Caleb Grimes said that Ross has taken the case very seriously and has not violated his bond during the time the case has been pending. Grimes said Ross is working two jobs and has taken responsibility for what happened.

For his part, Ross apologized to the victim.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said that it was a case where the maximum penalty is relatively minor while the offense has had a major impact on the victim. "She will have to have therapy and deal with the rest of her life because of you and your actions," he said.

Steven Thomas Reeves, Jr., 32, of Niles, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to five years probation, 300 days in jail with credit for 82 days already served, 25 years on the sex offender registry and $658 in fines and costs.

Reeves Jr.

The incident occurred in September, 2024 in Niles.

The victim and her mother both spoke before the sentencing. The victim said she felt betrayed and can't sleep. The girl's mother said she had trusted the man and now regrets allowing him to be around her children.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said Reeves has his own home and a job but could lose his home if he has to spend more time in jail. "He said he was behaving irresponsibly, he has had time to reflect on what he did during his time in custody," she said.

Reeves apologized for his actions. "I'm sorry for my actions, I'm ready to move forward with my life," he said.

"Your actions not just affected a little girl but also the community," Judge Hosbein said. "The most important thing I want the victim to remember is that these were not the actions of a man. This is not how a man behaves, it's not how the vast majority of men act. This was a despicable act to take the innocence of a child."

Four other people were given probationary sentences Monday.

Adam Lee Cole, 26, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine/narcotics and was sentenced to one year probation, credit for one day served and $658 in fines and costs.

Cole

The incident occurred Feb. 13, 2023 during a traffic stop.

Cole said he has been keeping himself busy since the incident happened and is working two jobs.

Brian David Michael, 66, pleaded guilty to second offense drunk driving and was sentenced to 18 months probation, 240 hours of community service, 60 days in jail, 150 days tether and $1,365 in fines and costs.

Michael

Judge Hosbein said he would hold off on the jail term to the end of Michael's probation and might suspend it if Michael is successful on probation.

The incident occurred Oct. 3, 2024.

Michael said he has been keeping himself busy and works two jobs.

Timothy Joseph Rouch, 36, pleaded guilty to use of methamphetamine and attempted carrying a concealed weapon, a knife, and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for 28 days served and $708 in fienes and costs.

The incident occurred Feb. 18, 2025.

Rhea Lynn Roberts, 32, of Niles, pleaded guilty to maintaining a drug house and possession of methamphetamine, both as second offenses, and was sentenced to two years probation, 140 days in jail with credit for 92 days served, completion of the Twin County Probation program and $726 in fines and costs.

Roberts

She can serve the rest of her jail sentence at Twin County.

The incident occurred in October, 2024 in Niles. She also faces charges in Indiana.

Judge Hosbein recommended Roberts have a plan for her life and for maintaining her sobriety. "The question is if your kids are enough to keep you sober, they weren't enough prior to this," the judge said. "Now you're saying you can do this. You have all these aspirations but no plan or steps to take."

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From left: Miranda Cropsey, Madisyn Boone, VP Hailey Perry, President Krista Schrader.

12 SMC students inducted into Honor Society

Courtesy of Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College Registrar Steve Carlson urged 12 Sigma Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society inductees and their families April 25 to have faith and to persevere as they seek their purpose.

"I have sat with hundreds of college students," Carlson said in Mathews Conference Center West, "helping them find purpose in life and that thing that really motivates them."

Carlson utilized the CliftonStrengths assessment, formerly known as StrengthsFinder.

Gallup developed the online tool to help individuals identify their natural talents and to develop them into strengths.

It measures the intensity of talents across 34 themes, offering a personalized report with top strengths and insights into how to leverage them for greater performance.

"The likelihood that somebody has the same top five talents as you is one in 3 million people," Carlson said. "The likelihood that somebody has the same top five talents as you in the same order is one in 33 million people. You're so unique because there's a special purpose for you."

As registrar since 2018, Carlson, of South Bend, confers SMC degrees and issues students their diplomas.

He has worked in higher education for 33 years, from large public research institutions to a small, private Christian college, starting in career counseling.

He and Amy, his wife of 33 years, have two grown children. He is an elder at Nfluence Church in Granger.

The 12 inductees boast a variety of plans.

Krista Schrader

President Krista Schrader graduates this semester in psychology and will transfer to the University of Michigan.

She believes she's already met some of the greatest professors she'll ever have and will miss their valuable guidance and encouragement.

Hailey Perry

Vice President Hailey Perry also majored in psychology. Perry plans to transfer to a four-year university after graduating in Spring 2026. Her goal is to go to medical school and become a psychiatrist. She will join SMC's Honors Program this summer.

Madisyn Boone

Boone graduates in Spring 2026 with an elementary education associate degree and plans to transfer to a four-year university to finish her bachelor's degree.

Miranda Cropsey

Cropsey is pursuing an associate degree in general studies. She expects to graduate in December 2026.

Mitzy Grana Diaz

She is graduating in general studies and will be transferring to Western Michigan University to major in freshwater science and sustainability.

Destiney Hensley

Hensley graduates in Spring 2026 in psychology and will transfer to further her studies in criminal psychology.

Nathan Hetler

Hetler graduates May 10 in general studies. He will transfer to WMU to major in history. He thanked Professor Dr. Jeff Dennis for mentoring him through his two years at SMC.

Alizay Young

Young graduated in December 2024 with a business management certificate. She works with autistic children as a registered behavior technician (RBT). She thanked God, her husband and the TRIO program for helping her get through the certificate program.

Angelica Jimenez

Jimenez is working toward her nursing degree and expects to graduate in Spring 2027.

Nathaniel Lakin

Lakin graduates May 10 with an associate degree in robotics. He starts an IBEW 153 apprenticeship on May 12. Lakin thanked Professor Larry Holz for mentoring him.

Rocio Rosas-Andrade

She graduates May 10 with an elementary education associate degree. Rosas-Andrade thanked her academic advisor, Brittany Tanke, for always being willing to help her and to answer all of her questions. She is excited to start the next chapter of her academic career at Ferris State University.

Alexa Wilson

Wilson graduates May 10 in business, transferring to WMU to major in finance.

PTK is co-advised by Colleen Welsch, director of library services, and English Professor Hailey Sheets, who draped inductees with stoles to be worn with commencement regalia as her sister called their names.

PTK is the largest U.S. honor society, with 3.5 million members since 1918 in 1,300 chapters, plus representation from 10 sovereign nations.

"Students we honor and recognize represent academic excellence at SMC and embody the hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship," Sheets said.

MSP Niles Post to host pancake breakfast

COMMUNITY REPORT

The Michigan State Police (MSP) Niles Post will be hosting a free pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 17.

MSP Niles will be serving delicious homemade pancakes from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Niles Post, located at 1600 Silverbrook Ave., Niles. The event is a chance for the public to interact with the men and women of the MSP who work and serve in the greater Niles community.

Niles Daily Star

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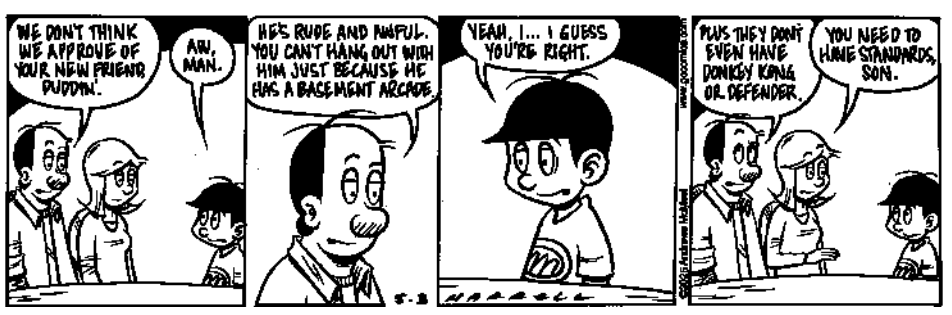
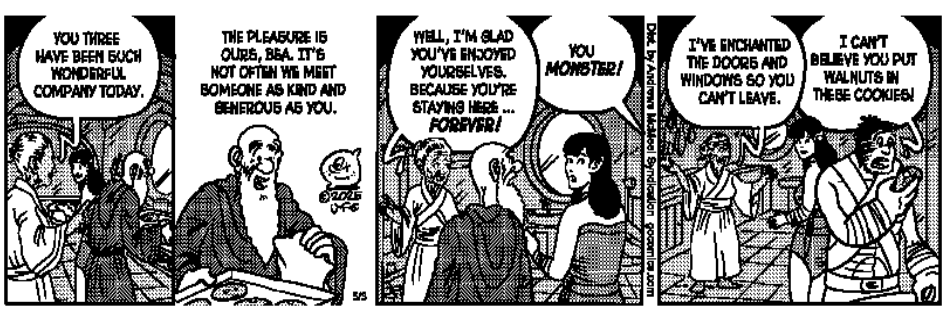
COMICS & PUZZLES

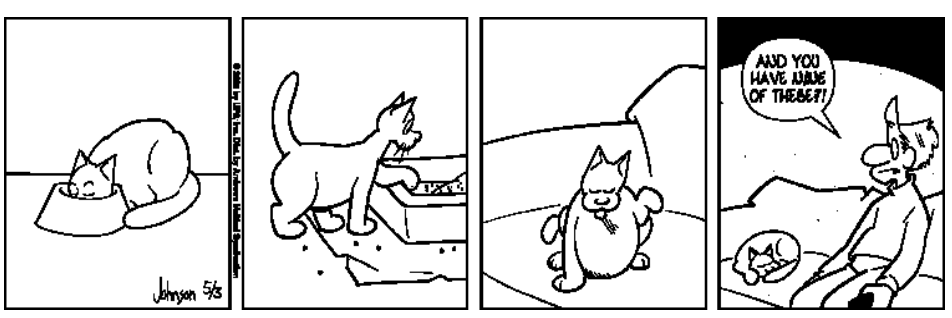
ADAM


WE DON'T THINK WE APPROVE OF YOUR NEW FRIEND, PUDDIN'.
AW, MAN.
HE'S RUDE AND AWFUL. YOU CAN'T HANG OUT WITH HIM JUST BECAUSE HE HAS A BASEMENT ARCADE.
YEAH, I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
PLUS THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE DONKEY KONG OR DEFENDER.
YOU NEED TO HAVE STANDARDS, SON.

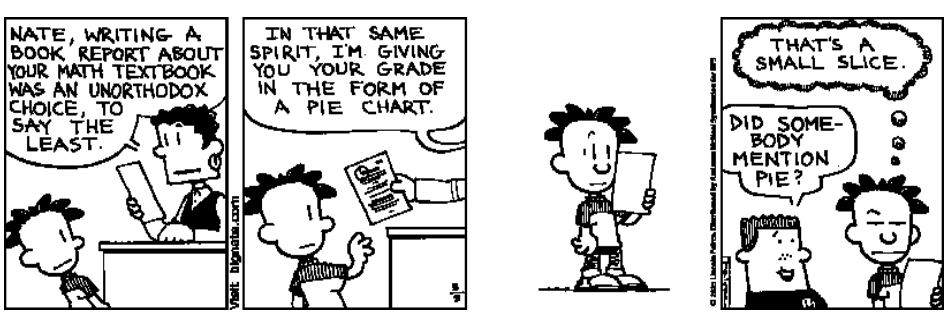
ALLEY OOP


YOU THREE HAVE BEEN SUCH WONDERFUL COMPANY TODAY.
THE PLEASURE IS OURS, BEA. IT'S NOT OFTEN WE MEET SOMEONE AS KIND AND GENEROUS AS YOU.
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'VE ENJOYED YOURSELVES. BECAUSE YOU'RE STAYING HERE ... FOREVER!
YOU MONSTER!
I'VE ENCHANTED THE DOORS AND WINDOWS SO YOU CAN'T LEAVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUT WALNUTS IN THESE COOKIES!

ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE

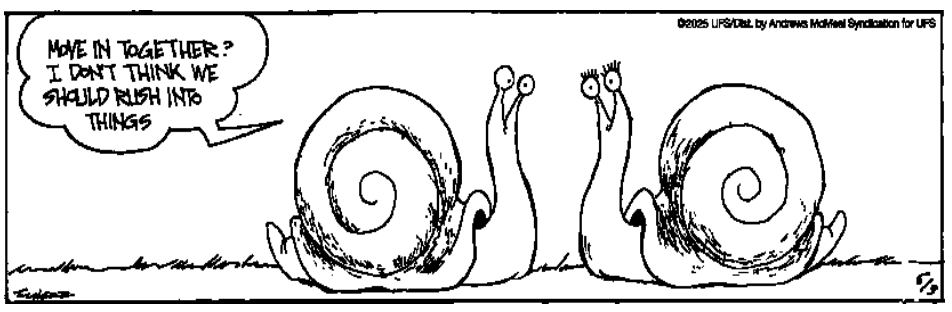

NATE, WRITING A BOOK REPORT ABOUT YOUR MATH TEXTBOOK WAS AN UNORTHODOX CHOICE, TO SAY THE LEAST.
IN THAT SAME SPIRIT, I'M GIVING YOU YOUR GRADE IN THE FORM OF A PIE CHART.
THAT'S A SMALL SLICE.
DID SOMEBODY MENTION PIE?

BORN LOSER

HEY, MOM! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PEANUT BUTTER—IT'S ALL LUMPY!
NOTHING'S WRONG. I BOUGHT CRUNCHY PEANUT BUTTER BY MISTAKE—THOSE ARE BITS OF PEANUTS.
WELL, I HOPE THEY CHARGED YOU LESS FOR NOT FINISHING GRINDING UP THE PEANUTS!

FRANK & ERNEST

GRIZZWELLS



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

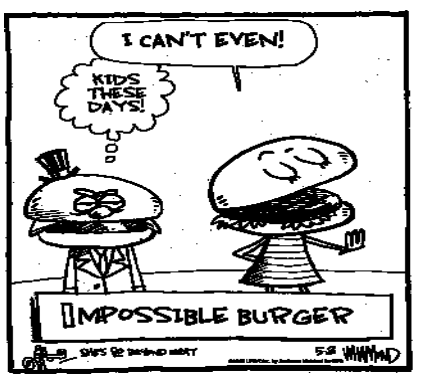
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

3			5	4				
		1		6	2	3		4
		5						2
5				9		4		
	9			3			7	
		2		5				9
4						8		
8		3	6	7		2		
				8	9			6

MODERATELY CONFUSED

WE HAVE THREE CHILDREN. WE'LL NEED A HOUSE WITH A BIGGER MUD ROOM.
STAHLER
5/3
© 2025 Jeff Stahler/ Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

REALITY CHECK

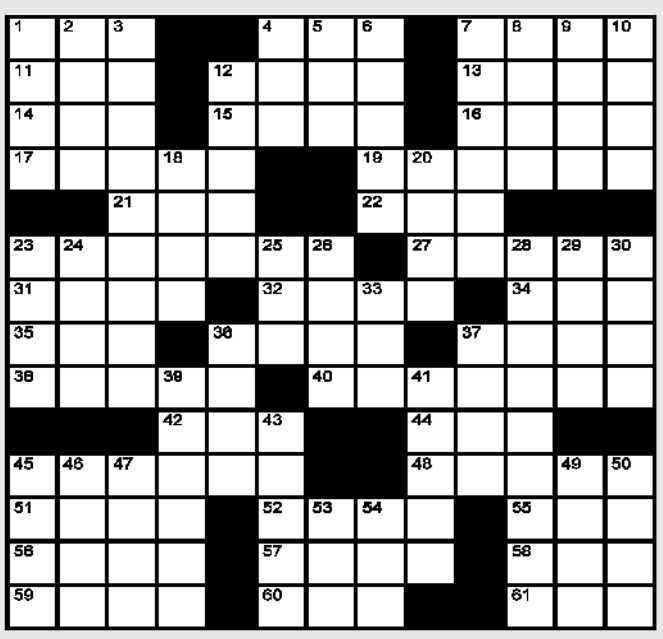


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Mongrel
4 Sharp knock
7 Dorothy's dog
11 Stage of life
12 Ripple
13 Cain's brother
14 Ga. neighbor
15 Is deep in the red
16 — Star State
17 Source of down
19 Ohio city
21 Many mos.
22 Unseal, in verse
23 Actor — Olyphant
27 Ctlfled
31 "Down with," in Paris
32 Klutz's cry
34 "Give — — rest!"
35 Spanish hero El —
36 Food shop
37 Fall
38 "— — Billie Joe"
40 Aromatic fruit (2 wds.)
42 Ancient
44 Free electron
45 Marvelous thing
48 Incite (2 wds.)
51 Lacking rainfall
52 Dye plant
55 — Today
56 Effrontery
57 Give shape to
58 Venomous reptile
59 Gen. Robert — —
60 Noah's vessel
61 — Vegas

DOWN
1 — au lait
2 Wrinkly fruit
3 Prebuilt (Hyph.)
4 Unrefined
5 St. crosser
6 Basil sauce
7 Of greater stature
8 Woodwind instrument
9 Be disposed
10 Margarine
12 Most unfavorable
18 Desire personified
20 Magnum — —
23 Folded food
24 Footnote abbr.
25 Farm tool
26 Hollandaise ingredient
28 Fluent in two tongues
29 Molecule part
30 Neck part
33 Boston cream —
36 Parcel (out)
37 Whip
39 Walk like a child
41 Produce
43 Theater work
45 Conduct
46 Surgeon type
47 "Death on the —"
49 Greek peak
50 Snoozes
53 Neither's partner
54 Type

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



5-3

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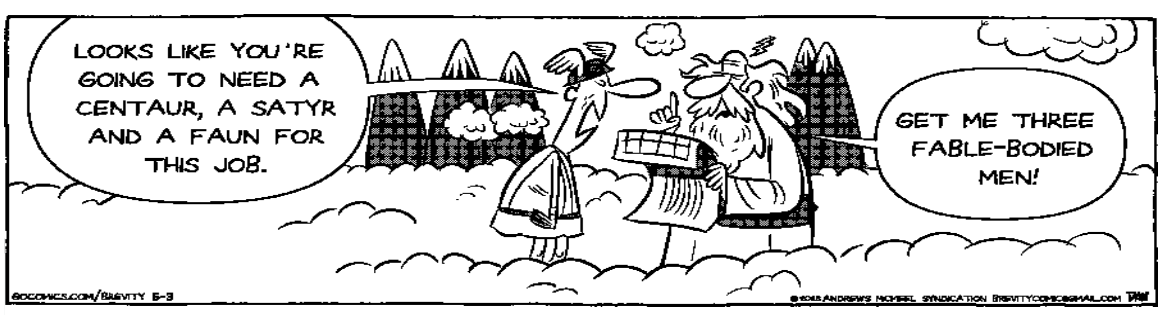
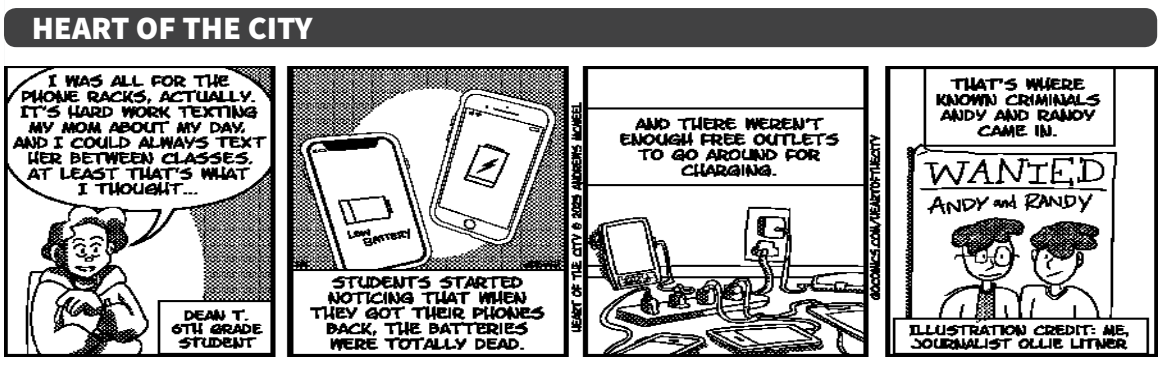
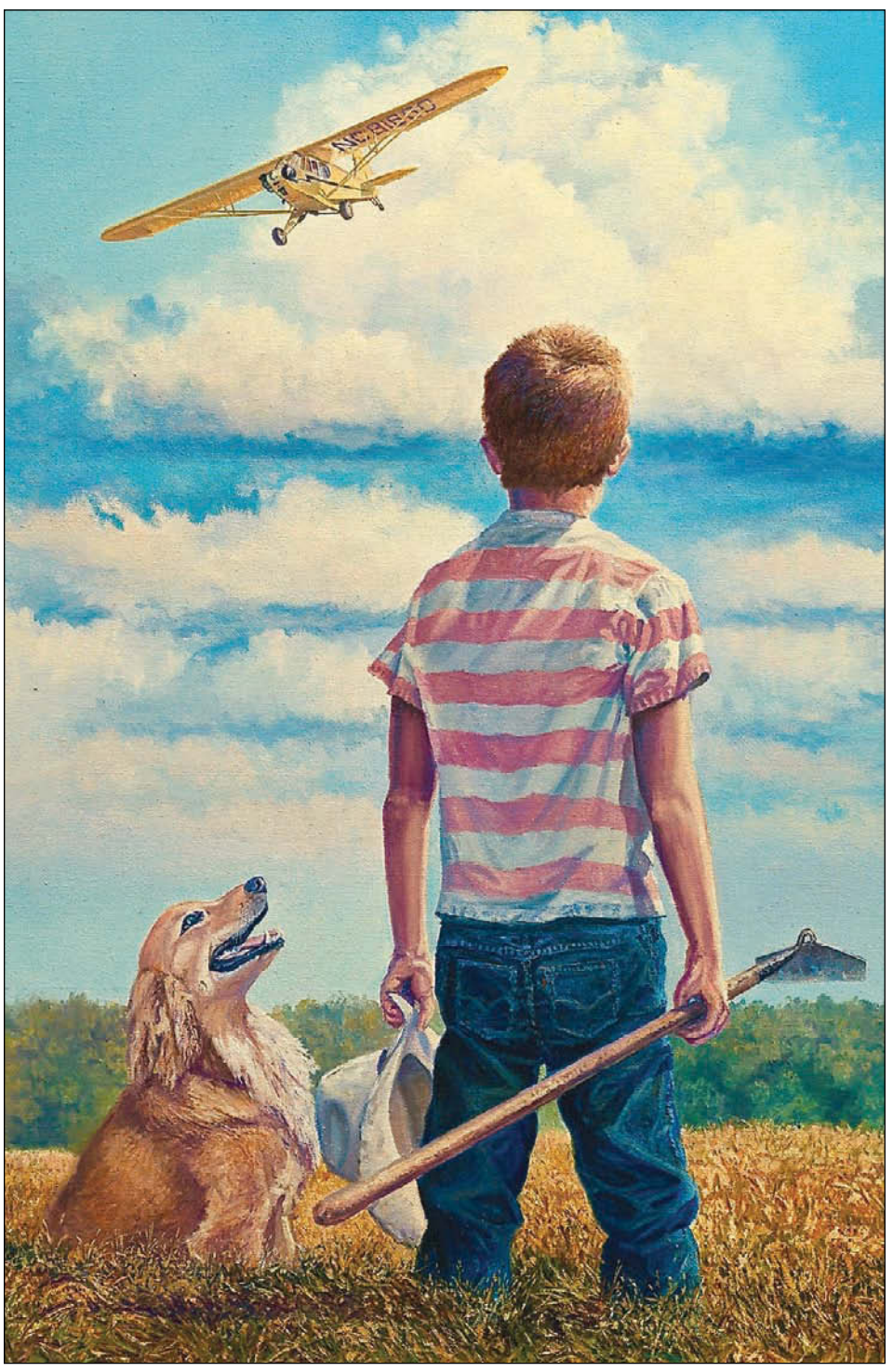
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY


I WAS ALL FOR THE PHONE RACKS, ACTUALLY. IT'S HARD WORK TEXTING MY MOM ABOUT MY DAY, AND I COULD ALWAYS TEXT HER BETWEEN CLASSES. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
DEAN T. 6TH GRADE STUDENT
Low Battery
STUDENTS STARTED NOTICING THAT WHEN THEY GOT THEIR PHONES BACK, THE BATTERIES WERE TOTALLY DEAD.
AND THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH FREE OUTLETS TO GO AROUND FOR CHARGING.
THAT'S WHERE KNOWN CRIMINALS ANDY AND RANDY CAME IN.
WANTED
ANDY and RANDY
ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: ME, JOURNALIST OLLIE LITNER



Dowagiac native to be inducted into Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame

COMMUNITY REPORT

KALAMAZOO — Former Dowagiac resident and aviation and historical artist Rick Herter has been selected for enshrinement into the Michigan Aviation Hall Of Fame.

The Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame was established in 1987 to recognize men and women who have made significant contributions and celebrate their achievements in the world of aviation and aerospace. The MAHOF is located inside the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo. The MAHOF is committed to recognizing enshrinees as role models, "as they inspire today's youth to follow their own vision and achieve excellence, no matter what their field of choice."

Each year, five to six men and women are inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame during the Air Zoo's Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards. Votes are cast annually by Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame Inductors, past enshrinees, and participating Air Zoo Members.

Herter grew up on a farm near Dowagiac and took his first airplane ride on his 13th birthday. That first flight, with a former WWII bomber pilot at the controls, would begin a lifelong passion for aviation and aviation history. Graduating from Spring Arbor College – now Spring Arbor University – in 1984 with a degree in fine art/commercial illustration, Herter eventually began working within the Air Show and defense related industries.

In 1988, Rick was invited by the office of the Secretary of the Air Force to join an elite group of civilian artists documenting United States Air Force history and operations, worldwide. Herter was given the opportunity, through the Air Force Art Program, to earn the distinction of being flight qualified thus making him eligible to train and fly with various Air Force units in everything from training to bomber to fighter aircraft. Rick has deployed and flown both on training and combat operations over nearly 35 years of service in his role as a historical artist.

In addition to his work for the military, Herter has also served the corporate world of aviation regularly working for companies like Airbus, Boeing, Rolls-Royce and many others. His work hangs in the boardrooms of numerous Airlines around the world as well as private, public and museum collections. His largest work is a 26,000 square-foot interior mural at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. The artist currently resides near Jupiter, Florida.

The enshrinement ceremony will take place Saturday, May 17. For more information please contact Ben Page at the Air Zoo at (269) 350-2819 or bpage@airzoo.org.

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Happy Mother's Day
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Chicken Dinner
Salad Bar • Dessert Table • Beverage
$15 Adults - $5 Kids - Under 5 Free
Dine In Only

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

C	U	R			R	A	P		T	O	O
A	G	E		W	A	V	E		A	B	E
F	L	A		O	W	E	S		L	O	N
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SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

3	2	8	5	4	7	9	6	1
9	7	1	8	6	2	3	5	4
6	4	5	9	1	3	7	8	2
5	8	6	7	9	1	4	2	3
1	9	4	2	3	6	5	7	8
7	3	2	4	5	8	6	1	9
4	6	9	1	2	5	8	3	7
8	1	3	6	7	4	2	9	5
2	5	7	3	8	9	1	4	6

INTERIM

Continued from page A1

better than we expected," Dunlap said. "Our fish and wildlife service representative said that we're the model for other places that have aging games. To this day, I get calls from places asking 'how did you do it, what did you do,' because we stepped up and did what's right and not necessarily was the cheapest or what corporate America would have done traditionally. Environmentally, it's gonna be there forever and that's beautiful."

Mosher is looking forward to building on the foundation Dunlap has laid for the city.

"With Jeff's time here, he's done a really great job and he's built this foundation that I'm happy to be able to build off of," she said. "I think he was really good at construction and projects and got the system to where it needed to be health and age-wise. I'm really looking to see what we can do with that going forward. It's just about looking inward at business processes and procedures and building on what he's already started. He laid a good foundation, so I'm excited to see what we do next."

DEATH NOTICES

Donald Bell, 86, of Dowagiac, passed away Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Corewell Heatlh, St. Joseph. Arrangements have been entrusted and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Eleanor Heminger, 98, of Berrien Center, died Thursday, April 24, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Bowerman Funeral Home in Eau Claire. Visitation on Thursday May 1 at Bowerman. www.BowermanFuneral.com

Dawn Adell King, 72, passed away on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in Edwardsburg, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Robert Edgar Mead, 65, passed away on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Cathy Sue Phillips, 68, passed away on Monday, April 28, 2025, in Edwardsburg, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Lon Michael Frucci, 76, passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Services on May 7, 2025, at 11:00am, Brown Funeral Home. Arrangements entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

OBITUARIES

Karen Lee (Schott) Dean

March 19, 1951 - April 18, 2025

On April 18, 2025, Karen Lee (Schott) Dean, 74, of Sacramento, California passed away, held close by her loved ones, and the skilled, caring staff of Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California.

Born in Dowagiac, Michigan, on March 19, 1951, Karen was the youngest of Daniel and Donna (Gard) Schott's four children. She graduated from Dowagiac Union High School and attended Kellogg Community College to join the then-nascent field of computer programming, in which she worked for decades, satisfied by solving problems and documenting solutions.

On May 17, 1980, Karen married Mark Dean, and together they took great joy in their family, raising two kids, who have declared Karen World's Best Mom for 45 straight years! She enjoyed road trips in the convertible to the San Francisco Bay area with Mark, spending warm afternoons floating in the swimming pool with her sister, and completing colorful jigsaw puzzles.

And, she would never say no to a game of Yahtzee! While Karen endured multiple disruptive health conditions for many years, she was quick to offer a smile or a hug. She demonstrated unwavering generosity, patience, and determination, inspiring others to do the same.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother Randall Schott. She is survived by her husband Mark, her children Jessica (Ian) Johnson and Lindsay Dean, her sister Diane McCane, and her brother Bruce Schott.

Her memorial service will be held at Harry A. Nauman & Son Funeral Home at 4041 Freeport Blvd. in Sacramento, California on May 2, 2025 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you consider a charitable gift in Karen's honor to your favorite organization, and appreciates your fond memories and expressions of sympathy shared online at legacy.com

John Leslie McIntyre, Sr.

March 2, 1938 - April 25, 2025

John Leslie McIntyre Sr., 87, of Cassopolis, died peacefully in the comfort of his family's presence. His life began March 2, 1938, in Jefferson Township Michigan, the seventh of eleven born to Lenn and Edith Marie McIntyre.

John loved to be outdoors. He spent time with his sons, hunting, fishing, mushroom-hunting and bird watching. John was everyone's mechanic. He could often be found out under a hood. His birthday date with his daughter was always at the casino. John was a member of Cassopolis coffee club and was a regular. Most of all he loved spending time with his family and grandchildren.

John will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by one daughter, Hope Marie (Kevin) Ruth; one son, John "Trapper" Leslie McIntyre Jr.; one sister, Rose (Tom) Green; two brothers, James (Connie Zablocki) McIntyre, Jerry (Jackie) McIntyre; nine grand-children, Joe Colpitts, Sabrina McIntyre, Jess Jr.McIntyre, Joseph McIntyre, Jamie McIntyre, Emily Odium, Joseph Moses, Isaiah Moses, Cierra Davison; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews; and special friend, Anna Kirk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Jess McIntyre; three brothers, Joe, Jason, Jerome McIntyre; four sisters, Mary Williams, Anna Rohacs, Edith Sharp and Sara Phillips.

Family and friends will gather Monday, May 5, 2025 11:00a.m. with his service to follow at 12:00p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. John will be laid to rest in Reames & Norton cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Niles approves social district permit, expands Commons Area

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A downtown business is now able to serve adult beverages to enjoy outside of its establishment within the approved areas of Niles' social district.

Iron Shoe Distillery was unanimously approved for a social district permit by the Niles City Council Monday night. An expansion of the city's Commons Area was also approved to include Iron Shoe Distillery and Casperson's Books and Art.

In July 2020, Michigan moved to allow local government units to establish within their boundaries a Social District and within the Social District, a Commons Area where patrons of properly permitted licensed alcohol providers may be outside with a single open container. In August, 2020, Niles adopted a Resolution Designating Social District No. 1 and defining a Commons Area.

Prior to Monday's approvals, the Commons Area ended at the corner of N. 3rd and Cedar Streets. Iron Shoe Distillery applied for a Social District License and in order to participate, the Commons Area needed to be extended to include their business.

The Council approved extending the district south on N. 3rd Street, both sides of the street and across Broadway to include both Iron Shoe Distillery and Casperson's Books and Art at 302 Broadway.

Iron Shoe joins 2nd & Main, Niles Brewing Company and The Study as licensed establishments within the district.

Social district rules

• Drinks containing alcohol in properly-labeled cups purchased from the following businesses are permitted:

The Study, 204 N. 4th St.

Niles Brewing Company, 206 E. Main St.

Iron Shoe Distillery, 3 N. 3rd St.

2nd & Main, 127 E. Main St.

• Drinks containing alcohol from other businesses, or drinks not in a properly labeled cup are prohibited.

• Social District beverages are not allowed in non-licensed food establishments.

• Retail establishments will have signage indicating whether Social District drinks are allowed or not.

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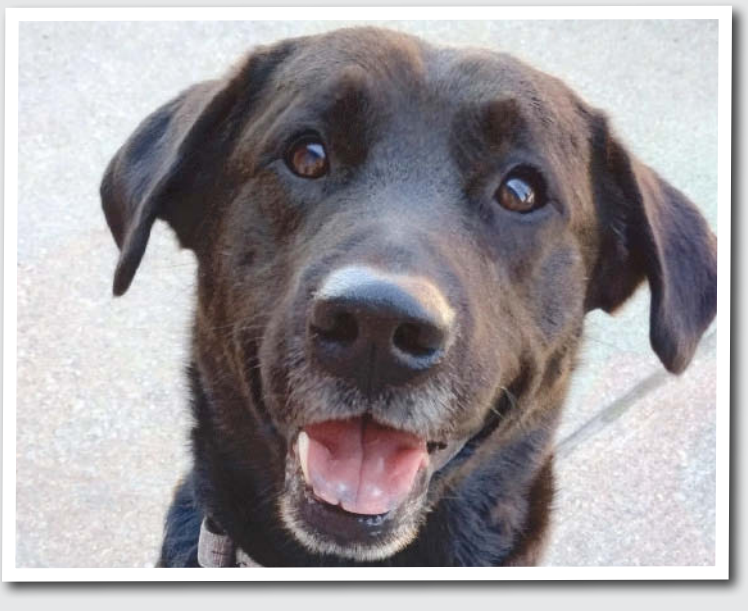
Pobocik Chapel Three Oaks 269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Buddy is a six year-old black lab mix who is great with people and kids and gets along with most dogs and cats with proper introduction. He loves to sit with you watching TV. He is neutered, current on shots and is house-trained. Contact Animal Aid at (269) 934-SPAY, infoanimalaidswmi@gmail.com



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PRAISE

Continued from page A1

According to Nelson, the event showcased the impact the NODE can have on increasing traffic and sales for local businesses.

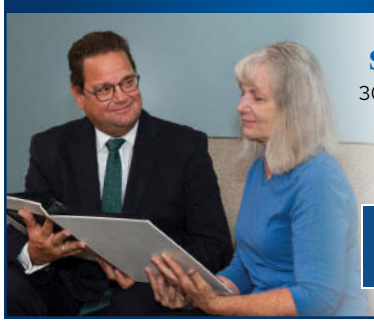
"We talked to some businesses after the event and folks were selling out of their to-go social Commons cups – over 400 cups sold that afternoon at Niles Brewing Company," Nelson said. "They said that they were $200 shy of their Hunter Ice Festival weekend. Across The Street Collectibles stayed open a couple hours later and almost beat Hunter sales. The Hunter Ice Festival has been the staple of what we measure success against. "

Mayor Nick Shelton said the NODE has been the most contentious topic during his tenure as mayor. He noted that the project was started to help business downtown and that even though it has been controversial, Niles has become a trailblazer in the county and the region for having an outdoor dining area downtown.

"[The addition of the NODE] was a decision that took a ton of collaboration," he said. "It can't be understated how much collaboration that took – it took feedback from those who were in favor of something, and it took feedback from those who weren't to create a space that was going to be special for our community. It was a decision that I wouldn't say was difficult to make and approve but it was difficult to get to where we are today… I can confidently say that I think we've made the right decision. I don't think it's something we will look back on and be upset with. We can be proud of it – that space will continue to grow and I will continue to be a catalyst for the continued revitalization of downtown Niles."

In closing, Shelton thanked the council, the DDA and the Niles community for making the project a reality.

"This past weekend was just incredible," he said. "I'm encouraged to know that some of those folks who didn't necessarily agree with the idea in the beginning are spending their days down there and I can confidently say that those people feel that their input and their voices were heard because we created a space that took their feedback to heart. I'm so very proud of the collaboration in our community and I just can't wait to see what's next down there."

Celebrate a life

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GRANT

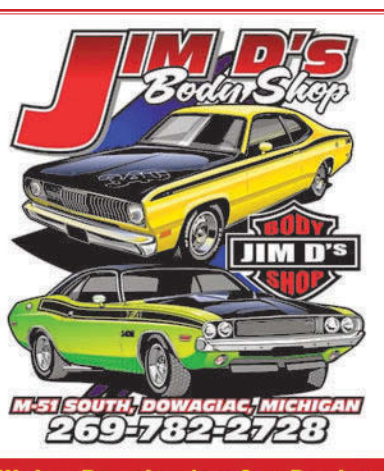
Continued from page A3

Board members approved the second budget amendment of the 2024-25 year.

Assistant Superintendent Ray Wilburn reported last month that general fund revenue is now expected to be between $17.4 million and $17.5 million, with expenditures around $17.6 million. That budget deficit is smaller than the first budget amendment last fall where expenditures exceeded revenue by $525,000.

He said if nothing changes by the end of the fiscal year in June, the district would have a fund balance of $3.8 million and a fund equity of $21.7 million. He said the district has enough funds on hand to cover three months of expenditures if no revenue was coming in.

The fund balance as a percentage of expenditures is at around 20 percent which Wilburn and Walker said is a healthy level.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NODE

Continued from page A1

as a safe space for outdoor gathering, the NODE became a celebrated part of the community, leading to the permanent construction. Features include a fireplace, overhead lighting, tables and chairs for seating and a stage area for performances. Throughout the year, various businesses and organizations will be able to utilize the space for events.

The NODE exists within the boundaries of Niles' social district, meaning guests can drink to-go alcoholic beverages sold by approved businesses in the space.

For 2nd & Main Co-owner Dustin Jankoviak, the NODE is a destination location he believes will help other businesses find success.

"Ever since I started working on business down here, the goals have been to create a lot of walking traffic and to show the community that people will walk up and down downtown, they will go into storefronts and they will spend money," he said. "They will choose to stay downtown instead of going across the state line. For us at 2nd & Main. It's just a good example for the rest of our businesses. Being a good resource for the rest of the businesses and really pouring into each other. We all have to be poured into and have the rising tides lift our sails."

CHARLES NELSON | ON BASE PRODUCTIONS

WAVE

Continued from page A1

musical theatre.

This annual event also offers students and production staff a valuable educational opportunity through written feedback from highly qualified arts professionals, additional performance opportunities, scholarship opportunities, a sense of belonging and value in the local arts community, and public recognition for a job well done.

The Awards Showcase will be held May 21, 2025.

THE 2024-2025 WAVE AWARD NOMINEES:

Outstanding Set Design in a Musical

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Scott Preheim

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Dwayne Whitmyer

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Emma Hurley

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; Kevin Marek

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Kristofer M. Perkins & Avery McCafferty

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Suzanne Button

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Musical

• Hartford High School; "High School Musical 2: Live Onstage"; Joe MacMillian

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Paul Milligan

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Lloyd Whitmyer

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Kristofer M. Perkins

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Scott Bradford

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Mike Springer

Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; Laura Pollock

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Barb Stepka & Reta Trux

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Deb Rancatore

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Jessica Wiersbe

Outstanding Choreography in a Musical

• Bridgman High School; "The Wizard of Oz"; Caitlyn Lustica

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Heather Schoenherr

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Catherine Wood

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; Nathan Mittleman

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Theresa Graziano

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Jenn Wolfe

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Allie Ruppert & Brandy Campbell

Outstanding Orchestra (Band) in a Musical

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Nicole Knouse

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Jennifer Gladkowski

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Matthew Pagel

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Sydney Brown

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Zac Coudret

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Burke Lokey

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Jeff Bopp

Outstanding Music Direction in a Musical

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; James Bennett

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Kyle Rehnlund

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; Kyle Schreiber & John Mink

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Ethan Schopp

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Beth Gray-Roll

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Katie Hilyard

Outstanding Featured Ensemble in a Musical

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; The Cuban Dancers

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!;" Newsies of New York

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; The Waiters

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Narrators & Jacob's Sons

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; The Urchins

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; The Lady of the Lake & Laker Girls

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; The Sardines

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; The Mersisters & Flounder

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Flotsam & Jetsam

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; 6 Merry Murderesses of the Cook County Prison

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Gen. Cartwright; Ava Peters

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Hannah; Shaelyn Carrick

• Hartford High School; "High School Musical 2: Live on Stage"; Oberon Fulton; Aiden Apreza

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Levi; Lillian Clark

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Orin–Dentist; Aaron Ilescas-Villa

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Angel; Kami Crandall

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Tim; Bryn Carlsen

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Mayor; Riley Newcomer

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Chef Luis; Evan Lokey

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Hunyak; Serenity Scully

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical

• Cassopolis High School; "Beetlejuice, Jr"; Delia Schlimmer; Emma Husted

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Crutchie; Lucas Bentzer

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Davey; Aiden Dohm

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; "Hello, Dolly!"; Barnaby; Cristian Samuel Hernandez

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Simeon; Ian Sokol

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Mushnik; Addison Lamport

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Patsy; Lellani Cowgill

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Mr. Krabs; Jack Mead

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Ursula; Sam Schadler

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Amos; Timothy Knapp

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical

• Bridgman High School; "Wizard of Oz"; Dorothy; Malia Fast

• Cassopolis High School; "Beetlejuice, Jr."; Beetlejuice; Laycee Ericson

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Sky Masterson; Ed Hernandez Lopez

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Sarah Brown; Sydney Trowbridge

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Jack Kelly; Brady Leep

• Hartford High School; "High School Musical 2: Live on Stage"; Gabriella Montez; Nevaeh Ledesma

• James Whitcomb Riley High School; Dolly Gallagher Levi; Evangeline Salgado

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Seymour; Henry Gadiel

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"; Arthur; Ben Plested

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; SpongeBob; Ava Gallo

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Patrick Star; Nix Hardman

• St. Joseph High School; "The Little Mermaid"; Sebastien; Seth Martin

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph…Dreamcoat"; Joseph; Aiden Sokol

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"; Velma Kelly; Claudia Fiedorowicz

Outstanding Direction in a Musical

• Cassopolis High School; "Beetlejuice, Jr."; Patrick Bondy

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"; Sam Vaughan

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"; Kyle Rehnlund

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Christine Sloan

• New Buffalo High School; "Little Shop of Horrors"; Chris Beushausen

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"; Andrew Nemeth

Outstanding Musical Production

• Concord High School; "Guys and Dolls"

• Edwardsburg High School; "Newsies!"

• Lakeshore High School; "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

• Paw Paw High School; "Spamalot"

• Penn High School; "The SpongeBob Musical"

• South Haven High School; "Chicago"

The event is free and open to the public. Parents, friends, fans, teachers, and school administrators are all encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit lakemichigancollege.edu/wave, email Mindy McCaffrey at mmccaffrey@lakemichigancollege.edu, or call the Visual & Performing Arts office at (269) 927-8876.

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FOOTBALL

Notre Dame sees six players drafted

Courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — With six former Irish student-athletes selected in the 2025 NFL Draft last weekend, Notre Dame boasts 538 all-time NFL Draft selections, extending its lead as the program with the most NFL Draft picks in history.

Notre Dame extends to 89 NFL Drafts (of 90 total) with an Irish player selected. This remains tied for the most among any college football program. Notre Dame has the longest streak in college football of at least one player drafted at 87-straight years (including 1977 supplemental draft)

The 2025 NFL Draft saw cornerback Benjamin Morrison drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the second round (53rd overall), and safety Xavier Watts followed that night, drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the third round (96th overall).

Day Three of the draft started off with linebacker Jack Kiser selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the fourth round (107th overall). In the fifth round, defensive lineman Rylie Mills was selected by the Seattle Seahawks (142nd overall) and Mitchell Evans was drafted to the Carolina Panthers (163rd overall). Quarterback Riley Leonard followed, selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the sixth round (189th overall).

With six players drafted, Notre Dame marks its third draft in the last five years with six or more players selected.

SOFTBALL

DOWAGIAC SOFTBALL SWEEPS BENTON HARBOR

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

DOWAGIAC — It didn't take the Dowagiac girls' softball team long to return to its winning ways.

After getting swept in a non-league doubleheader at Stevensville-Lakeshore on Monday, Dowagiac returned to the diamond Tuesday and crushed visiting Benton Harbor 16-0 and 18-0 in a Lakeland Conference twinbill.

Both games were called in the third inning on the 15-run mercy rule.

Dowagiac had started the season with 16 consecutive victories before falling twice to Lakeshore 10-9 and 10-0. Tuesday's wins improve the Lady Chieftains to 18-2 overall and 4-0 in the league with a key league twinbill against Niles Brandywine coming up next Tuesday at home.

"These two games gave us a chance to work on some things. All of the kids got to play and we brought up a couple girls, Dari Brooks and Madi Wilds, from the junior varsity who combined to go 4-for-4 for us at the plate. It was good to see that from them. All of the girls were patient at the plate and took the best pitches we could tonight and hit the ball hard," said Dowagiac head coach Mike Behnke who is in his 21st season guiding the program.

"I felt bad for Benton Harbor today and the teams we play next week because the two losses on Monday to Lakeshore left us with a bad taste in our mouths. We just have to fix a few things and our girls know what they have to do to keep improving."

Dowagiac senior pitcher Rebecca Guernsey tossed a perfect game in the opener with six strikeouts.

The Lady Chieftains scored 10 runs in the first inning. Charleigh Reed belted a two-run single that scored Guernsey and Marlie Carpenter. Claire Hess' RBI single plated Bree Behnke. Bree Campbell had a two-run double that scored Hess and Reed. Wilson's RBI single drove home Campbell. Behnke laced an RBI single that scored McIntosh in the Chieftains' second trip through the lineup during the frame.

Olivia McIntosh, Addie Wilson and Carpenter all scored during the same inning on walks.

Dowagiac tacked on six more runs in the bottom of the second. Reed, Hess and Campbell all scored on Wilson's three-run double. McIntosh singled to drive in Wilson. Guernsey's RBI single plated Emily Henry. McIntosh scored on a walk to Madi Wilds.

Dowagiac's bats remained hot in the nightcap.

The Lady Chieftains scored 10 runs in the first and eight in the second.

Carpenter blasted a two-run triple that scored McIntosh and Guernsey to highlight the first. Henry's two-run double scored Reed and Hess.

Carpenter scored on a walk to Hess. McIntosh returned to the dish later in the frame and laced a two-run triple that scored Campbell and Henry. McIntosh scored on Guernsey's RBI single. Behnke punched a single that scored Guernsey. Carpenter and Behnke scored the other two Chieftains' runs on bases-loaded walks.

Wulson's two-run double scored Dari Brooks and Wilds in the second. Henry added a two-run single that scored Wilson and Campbell. Guernsey's RBI single plated Henry. Carpenter drove in McIntosh and Guernsey with a single. Carpenter scored on Behnke's double.

Wilson got the win for Dowagiac in the circle with eight strikeouts. She struck out the first three Benton Harbor hitters in the first

See SWEEPS, Page B3

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Dowagiac senior Rebecca Guernsey (12) gets ready to uncork a pitch to the plate to a Benton Harbor hitter in the first game of Tuesday's Lakeland Conference doubleheader at home.

FOOTBALL

Priebe signs UDFA deal with Miami Dolphins

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Josh Priebe is officially a pro.

The Niles native and former Edwardsburg standout has signed an undrafted free agent deal with the Miami Dolphins. He'll have a chance to compete for a final roster spot throughout spring camp.

Priebe started all 13 games at left guard for the Wolverines in 2024, became an All-Big Ten Third Team selection and was named a William V. Campbell Trophy Semifinalist. Before his arrival in Ann Arbor, Priebe spent four years at Northwestern where he became a team captain and started in 29 of 36 games for the Wildcats.

Priebe

FOOTBALL

Wolverines tie program record with three chosen in first round of NFL Draft

Courtesy of Michigan Athletics

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The University of Michigan football team had a program-record-tying three players chosen in the first round of the NFL Draft, held Thursday (April 24) evening at Lambeau Field and the adjacent Titletown District in Green Bay, Wis. Michigan was the only program with multiple top-10 picks as defensive tackle Mason Graham led the group with his selection by the Cleveland Browns with the fifth overall pick and tight end Colston Loveland was chosen by the Chicago Bears with the 10th overall selection.

The three Wolverines drafted in the first round of this year's draft tied a school record. The program also had three first-round selections in 1995 (Tyrone Wheatley, Ty Law and Trezelle Jenkins) and 2001 (David Terrell, Steve Hutchinson and Jeff Backus).

Graham became the first Wolverine player off the board with his selection by the Browns. Graham earned unanimous first-team All-American honors in 2024 after collecting second-team accolades in 2023 as a starter on Michigan's National Championship team. A two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection, he was a finalist for the Outland Trophy and Bronko Nagurski Award in 2024 and was a semifinalist for both the Lott IMPACT Trophy and Bednarik Award. Graham appeared in 39 games with 27 starts at defensive tackle in his three seasons, contributing 108 tackles, 17 tackles for loss, nine sacks and one fumble recovery. He has been the consensus No. 1 defensive tackle in the draft after leading Michigan's defensive line with a career-best 45 tackles, including 7.0 TFLs, 3.5 sacks and one blocked field goal attempt in 2024.

Five picks after the selection of Graham, the Chicago Bears made Loveland the 10th pick of the draft. Loveland was the Wolverines' top receiving threat in 2024, setting a tight end record with 56 catches for 582 yards (10.4 avg.) and five touchdowns. He was a second-team All-American

See RECORD, Page B2

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WRESTLING

Climax-Scotts' Gilbert to wrestle for SMC

Courtesy of Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Logan Gilbert of Climax-Scotts High School has signed his NJCAA Letter of Intent to wrestle for Head Coach Todd Hesson and the Roadrunners.

Gilbert's high school record was an incredible 191-21. He was a four-time district champion, four-time regional champion, and was named All-State all four years. In those state meets, he placed in the top three all four years: in third place once, as runner-up once and state champion twice.

Gilbert joins Gavin VanKirk of Mason, Chaz Underwood and Mazzy Lambert of White Pigeon and Jayden Cochran of Miamisburg, Ohio, as the fifth signee in the 2025 SMC Wrestling recruiting class.

"It is my pleasure to recommend Logan Gilbert for admission to SMC and participation in the wrestling program," said Mike Reitz, retired Varsity Head Coach for Climax-Scotts. "As Logan's wrestling coach, I have had the privilege of watching him grow as an athlete and an individual. Logan has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, discipline and sportsmanship. His accomplishments are a testament to his hard work and commitment to excellence. Logan's talents reach farther the mat, he is a leader that inspires his teammates and contributes positively to the team dynamic.

"I am confident Logan will be a valuable asset to the SMC Wrestling team. His strong work ethic and determination will undoubtedly make him a standout athlete at the college level. Thank you for considering Logan Gilbert for your program. I wholeheartedly support his decision to enroll at SMC and am excited to see all that he will achieve."

Hesson added, "Logan comes into our program with an impressive resume and has both team and individual postseason experience. He is excited for the challenge of wrestling at the next level."

In 2024-2025, the Roadrunners again went undefeated in the MCCAA Duals Meet, earned the three-peat in the MCCAA Conference championship, defeated three nationally-ranked teams to win the Great Lakes District and qualify the maximum ten wrestlers for the national meet. SMC finished the season at #14 in the country and sophomores Colby Klinger and Nathan Andrina were honored as All-Americans.

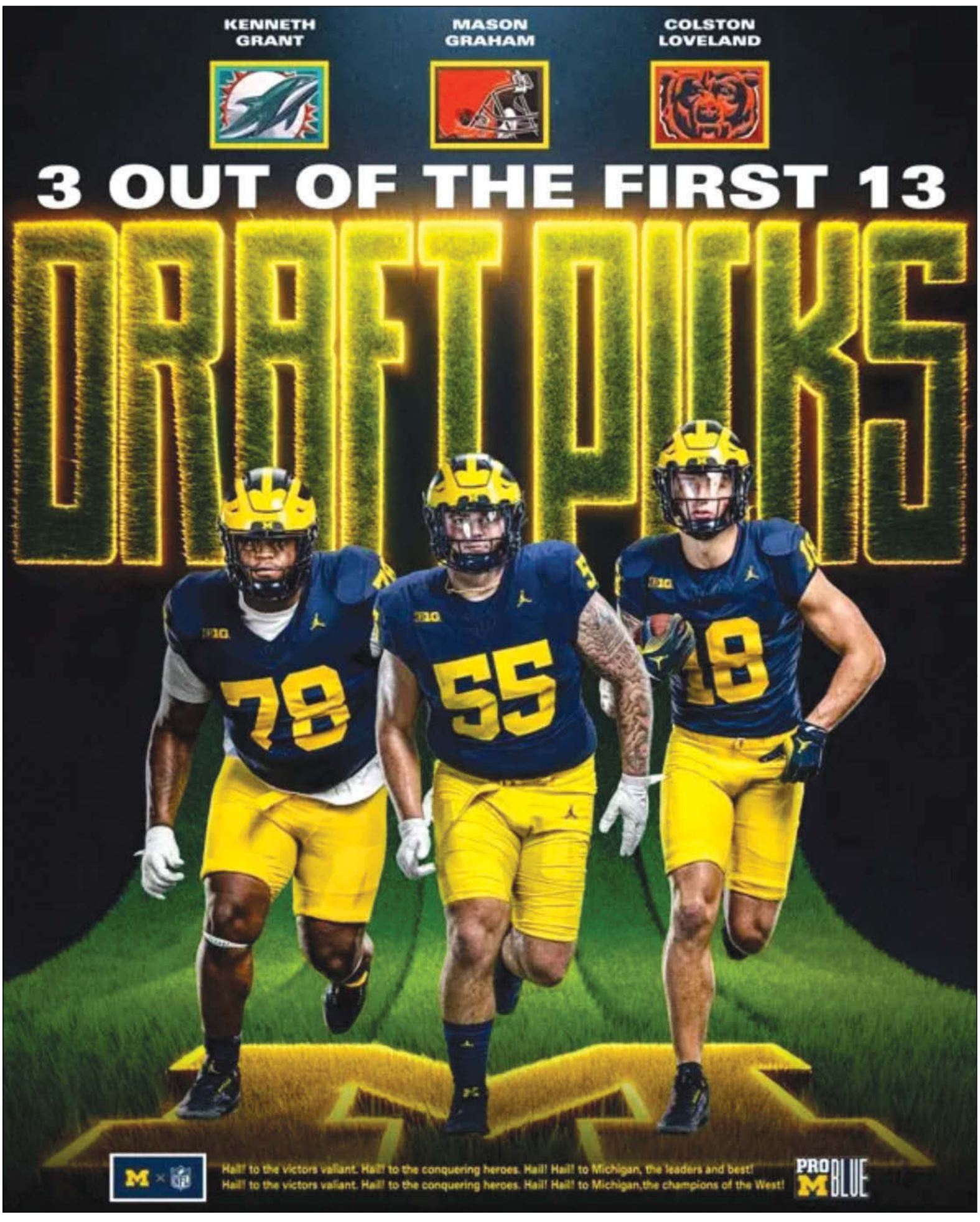
On April 9, the college announced the construction of a new 11,195 square-foot wing of the Zollar Building that will quadruple the space available to the men's and women's wrestling teams. It will double the mat capacity for practice sessions and provide additional competition space for hosting conference and regional meets. The new facility will also include a dedicated fitness and warm-up area, coaches' offices, locker rooms and additional restrooms. On-site work has already begun, with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for May 2025 and occupancy targeted for February 2026.

RECORD

Continued from page B1

and a finalist for the John Mackey Award as the nation's top tight end last season. A two-time All-Big Ten selection, Loveland earned first-team honors during the 2023 national championship season and second-team accolades in 2024. He appeared in 39 career games at tight end over his three seasons with 24 starting assignments. Loveland caught 117 passes for 1,466 yards and scored 11 TDs during his career and hauled in a reception in 31 straight games played. He is the 28th Wolverine to eclipse 100 career receptions (third TE) and 33rd player in school history (fifth TE) to reach double digits in receiving TDs. Loveland was also a two-time recipient of Michigan's top Offensive Skill Player of the Year award (2023-24).

The third Wolverine to come off the board, defensive tackle Kenneth Grant was chosen by the Miami Dolphins with the 13th overall pick. Grant is Michigan's record holder among linemen with 11 career passes defended – 10 PBUs and one interception. He contributed 69 tackles, 11.0 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks and three fumble recoveries to go along with the record-setting 11 passes defended. Grant appeared in 41 career games and made 17 starts at defensive tackle. He was selected as a third-team All-American by the Associated Press in 2024 and earned second-team All-Big Ten honors during the 2023 and 2024 seasons. In addition, Grant was a two-time recipient of the Woodley-Graham Award as Michigan's top defensive lineman or edge defender (2023-24).


KENNETH GRANT
MASON GRAHAM
COLSTON LOVELAND
3 OUT OF THE FIRST 13
DRAFT PICKS
78
55
18
Hail! to the victors valiant. Hail! to the conquering heroes. Hail! Hail! to Michigan, the leaders and best!
Hail! to the victors valiant. Hail! to the conquering heroes. Hail! Hail! to Michigan,the champions of the West!
PRO BLUE

TRACK & FIELD

TOP TRACK AND FIELD PERFORMANCES THROUGH APRIL 30

BOYS
100-meter dash
1 Mobius Stubblefield, Edwardsburg – 11.03
2 Aarenn Buck-Hooper, Cassopolis – 11.07
3 Ben Bruckner, Niles – 11.36
4 Peyton Gordon, Niles – 11.40
5 Andre Wells, Niles – 11.52
200-meter dash
1 Stubblefield, Edwardsburg – 22.56
2 Aydan Mccary, Niles – 23.01
3 Ben Bruckner, Niles – 23.18
4 Carson Deming, Buchanan – 23.50
5 Fredrik Sante, Edwardsburg – 23.83
400-meter dash
1 Stubblefield, Edwardsburg – 49.49
2 Mccarey, Niles – 49.66
3 Devin Rock, Dowagiac – 53.16
4 Lucas Debortoli, Niles – 54.02
5 Jack Sherwood, Buchanan – 54.15
800-meter run
1 George Scupham, Edwardsburg – 1:59.92
2 Owen Saylor, Dowagiac – 2:02.36
3 Maguire Johnson, Edwardsburg – 2:08.73
4 Jaden Gregory, Edwardsburg – 2:10.52
5 Tanner Krah, Edwardsburg – 2:12.88
1600-meter run
1 Saylor, Dowagiac – 4:31.28
2 Scupham, Edwardsburg – 4:34.96
3 Liam McBeth, Buchanan – 4:40.38
4 Johnson, Edwardsburg – 4:43.20
5 Gregory, Edwardsburg – 4:51.83
3200-meter run
1 Johnson, Edwardsburg – 10:19.98
2 Scupham, Edwardsburg – 10:33.68
3 John Leith, Edwardsburg – 10:46.26
4 Gates, Edwardsburg – 10:46.91
5 Jacob Kuntz, Buchanan – 10:57.96
110-meter hurdles
1 Aydan Mccarey, Niles – 14.92
2 Lyle Schaible, Edwardsburg – 18.76
3 Alfonzo Williams, Dowagiac – 18.91
4 Aiden Toll, Buchanan – 19.69
5 Jaden Robinson, Buchanan – 21.00
300-meter hurdles
1 Zach Zietlow, Niles – 47.10
2. Jetson Rodgers, Niles – 47.21
3 Jaden Robinson, Buchanan – 47.41
4 Jaden Ciszczon, Edwardsburg – 48.88
5 Williams, Dowagiac – 49.25
400-meter relay
1 Niles – 44.40
2 Cassopolis – 45.37
3 Buchanan – 45.75
4 Dowagiac – 46.54
5 Edwardsburg – 45.98
6 Brandywine – 47.83
800-meter relay
1 Edwardsburg – 1:35.10
2 Dowagiac – 1:35.74
3 Niles – 137.02
4 Brandywine – 1:37.37
5 Cassopolis – 1:40.00
6 Buchanan – 1:40.01
1600-meter relay
1 Edwardsburg – 3:34.03
2 Dowagiac – 3:39.51
3 Buchanan – 3:39.59
4 Niles – 3:40.86
3200-meter relay
1 Edwardsburg – 8:22.98
2 Buchanan – 8:52.12
3 Niles – 9:32.40
Shot put
1 Brandon Hamilton, Niles – 48'9"
2 Bryce Young, Niles – 44'6"
3 Riley Cowan, Niles – 44'2.5"
4 Jordan Cunningham, Niles – 44'0.5"
5 Elijah Camille-McLeod, Buchanan – 36'11"
Discus
1 Trenton Scott, Niles – 132'8"
2 Oscar Morris, Edwardsburg – 126'9"
3 Cunningham, Niles – 117'10"
4 Young, Niles – 115'2"
5 Quentin Hill, Dowagiac – 111'8"
High jump
1 Zach Overmyer, Edwardsburg – 6'5"
2 Santana, Brandywine 6'1"
3 Frame, Buchanan – 6'0"
3 Jaylen Pratt, Cassopolis – 6'0"
3 Jesten Gregory, Brandywine, 6'0"
Pole vault
1 Lucas Frentz, Edwardsburg – 12'6"
2 Matthew Finn, Buchanan – 11'6"
3 Coy Weinberg, Buchanan – 10'0"
2 Liam Beckman, Niles – 10'0"
5 Nicolas Edgerton, Edwardsburg – 9'6
Long jump
1 Santana, Brandywine – 21'0"
2 Bruckner, Niles – 20'11"
3 Andre Wells, Niles – 20'3"
4 Rucker, Niles – 19'8.5"
5 Jaden Ivery, Niles – 19'8.5"

GIRLS
100-meter dash
1 Shamyra Clark, Dowagiac – 12.90
2 Caliana Manfred, Edwardsburg – 13.40
3 Rihanna Calloway, Dowagiac – 13.41
4 Tanaya Brown, Niles – 13.62
5 Justyce Cashier, Buchanan – 13.69
5 Annika VanBuren, Edwardsburg – 13.69
200-meter dash
1 Karleigh Byrd, Brandywine – 27.45
2 Audrey Lietz, Buchanan – 27.51
3 Clark, Dowagiac – 27.56
4 Kennedy Goorhouse, Edwardsburg – 27.97
5 Calloway, Dowagiac – 28.05
400-meter dash
1 Georgia Babcock, Edwardsburg – 1:01.28
2 Makynna Williams, Buchanan – 1:04.55
3 Goorhouse, Edwardsburg – 1:05.69
4 Gianna Ball, Niles – 105.75
5 Alex Ferguson, Edwardsburg – 1:06.08
800-meter run
1 Georgia Babcock, Edwardsburg – 2:22.51
2 Madeline Young, Buchanan – 2:30.10
3 Miley Young, Brandywine – 2:32.72
4 Layla Gableman, Edwardsburg – 2:38.12
5 Sadie Bonczynski, Dowagiac – 2:41.76
1600-meter run
1 Babcock, Edwardsburg – 5:05.81
2 Madeline Young, Buchanan – 5:44.58
3 Bonczynski, Dowagiac – 5:52.65
4 Layla Gableman, Edwardsburg – 6:01.28
3200-meter run
1 Babcock, Edwardsburg – 11:18.62
2 Young, Buchanan – 12:34.30
3 Gableman, Edwardsburg – 13.23.70
4 Bonczynski, Dowagiac – 13:49.36
5 Emily Kline, Brandywine – 14:00.60
100-meter hurdles
1 Izabel Hoskin, Niles – 16.69
2 Lily Gill, Brandywine – 17.14
3 Sarina Mora, Edwardsburg – 17.74
4 Ava Graham, Buchanan – 18.15
5 Nadia Poorman, Dowagiac – 18.67
300-meter hurdles
1 Lily Gill, Brandywine – 49.92
2 Kaylor, Edwardsburg – 52.51
3 Poorman, Dowagiac – 53.31
4 Graham, Buchanan – 55.21
5 Skylie Johnson, Dowagiac – 56.39
400-meter relay
1 Niles – 52.27
2 Dowagiac – 52.75
3 Brandywine – 53.52
4 Edwardsburg – 53.71
5 Cassopolis – 55.63
6 Buchanan – 56.05
800-meter relay
1 Niles – 1:51.42
2 Brandywine – 1:51.68
3 Dowagiac – 1:51.86
4 Edwardsburg – 1:53.30
5 Buchanan – 1:57.32
6 Cassopolis – 1:59.23
1600-meter relay
1 Edwardsburg – 4:21.73
2 Buchanan – 4:27.32
3 Niles – 4:37.29
4 Brandywine – 4:38.64
5 Cassopolis – 5:04.44
3200-meter relay
1 Buchanan – 10:56.90
2 Edwardsburg – 11:20.04
3 Brandywine – 11:47.58
Shot put
1 Zoe Griggs, Buchanan – 33'10.75"
2 Akkirah Robinson, Buchanan – 28'11"
3 Brooke Strefling, Buchanan – 28'1"
4 Natyla Brookins, Dowagiac – 26'3"
5 Addi McKean, Buchanan – 25'1"
Discus
1 Robinson, Buchanan – 89'4"
2 Sarah Pippin, Edwardsburg – 88'3"
3 Griggs, Buchanan – 87'4"
4 Lanijiyah Moss, Dowagiac – 86'10"
5 Brookins, Dowagiac – 86'7"
High jump
1 Pippin, Edwardsburg – 5'6"
2 Loryana Harris, Niles – 4'10"
2 Poorman, Dowagiac – 4'10"
2 Karleigh Byrd, Brandywine – 4'10"
5 Estrella King, Buchanan – 4'6"
Pole vault
1 Madelyn Peat, Edwardsburg – 8'0"
2 Baker, Buchanan – 7'0"
3 Abbigail Peat, Edwardsburg – 6'6"
4 Isabella Overmyer, Buchanan – 6'0"
Long jump
1 Mackenna Price, Brandywine – 16'4"
2 Tessa Deering, Dowagiac – 15'10"
3 Bree Lake, Niles – 15'4"
4 Ryley Bowsher, Cassopolis – 15'2.5"
5 Mora, Edwardsburg – 15'1"

KIMMERLY: MHSAA programs prioritize health, safety

Courtesy of MHSAA

LANSING — Rank the top 10 conversations anyone would choose to have when it comes to school sports – be it talking up top teams, the latest stars, past champs, etc. – and advances in health & safety probably come in somewhere around No. 27.

But no topic has been or will remain more important to generating and maintaining successful athletic programs at every level of sport – including the high school and junior high/middle school levels administered by the MHSAA.

From the start of organized school athletics in Michigan more than 100 years ago, health and safety have been priorities. Sports safety concerns – especially in football – helped drive the creation of organized sport administration. Longtime policies – like the one ceasing activity for 30 minutes for lightning or thunder – have become part of daily life in athletics. Other measures, like MHSAA-provided insurance coverage to assist families who experience catastrophic injuries in school practices and competitions, aren't even known by most – but can be life-altering for those who require those benefits.

For most of this century, the MHSAA's health & safety initiatives have focused on the "4 Hs" coined by retired executive director Jack Roberts – Health Histories, Heads, Heat and Hearts. Those were the drive of much of his work especially over the final decade of his tenure before he retired in 2018 after 32 years.

Current executive director Mark Uyl's time leading the association has seen the MHSAA begin work in mental health and create a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) during the 2019-20 school year. He also led the MHSAA through its successfully safe return to play amid COVID-19 and the pandemic's aftermath.

Health and safety information is contained in every preseason coaches meeting, which all coaches (head and assistant) are required to take. The MHSAA also has a strong relationship with the Michigan Athletic Trainer's Society (MATS), who have a representative serving on every MHSAA sport committee along with the SMAC.

Along the lines of major initiatives, here are highlights:

Histories: Although pre-participation physicals long have been required, the MHSAA took a significant step incorporating student and family history with the introduction of new physical forms in 2011. The current form includes several questions not only about the participant receiving the physical, but also heart-related questions about family members.

Heads: The MHSAA was among the first states to adopt a return-to-play protocol requiring an athlete to be cleared by a doctor, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, with that protocol also not allowing the athlete to return to participation until at least the next day after a possible head injury. At the start of the 2015-16 school year, the MHSAA launched the largest state-led sideline testing pilot program for concussions, providing a pair of screening tests so those injuries could be detected during practice and competition. Also since 2015-16, the MHSAA has required member high schools to report all potential head injuries and several details including when they took place (practice or competition) and how long students were treated before returning to activity – another first-of-its-kind initiative nationally. The MHSAA currently works with the University of Michigan Concussion Center to provide the most up-to-date information on the subject.

Heat: Long a megaphone for hydration and other best practices for preventing heat-related illnesses, the MHSAA took a major step with the creation of its "Model Policy for Heat and Humidity" for the 2013-14 school year that designates limits to activities (including a complete stop) based on heat index. While the policy is mandated for MHSAA Tournament activity, several schools have adopted the policy for the regular season as well. The MHSAA continues annually to renew awareness of heat management with its "Heat Ways" preseason guide for fall sports.

Hearts: The MHSAA has focused on providing tools so that as many people as possible are prepared to help during a cardiac event. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, all varsity head coaches have been required to have CPR certification – and that requirement has been extended to head coaches at all high school and junior/middle school levels, ensuring that at least one person on site for every game and practice is trained in this life-saving technique. The MHSAA also has worked with MI HEARTSafe to in part get more AEDs into schools. Beginning this school year, the MHSAA required schools to build emergency action plans (EAPs) specific to sport and venue. And, as noted above, the preparticipation physical also asks questions about an athlete's family history of heart health, so medical professionals can identify early situations that may require further investigation.

Mental Health: Annual rules meetings include required training in the be nice. program provided by the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan. The MHSAA also has worked with Ithaca athletic director Terry Hessbrook to promote his B#4 Foundation and its work in suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee: The SMAC, made up of experts from the medical and educational communities, meets twice a year to consider topics and make recommendations relevant to health and safety in school sports.

Insurance: All the way back in 1940-41, the MHSAA became one of the first state associations nationally to provide accident benefit insurance to its constituents. The insurance provided over the years has evolved into a catastrophic claims policy beginning with the 1970-71 school year, and then in 2015-16 to include benefits specific to head injuries. The MHSAA's insurance policy continues to cover deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies for head injuries resulting during school practices or competitions, and at no cost to either schools or families.

There have been other notable moments over the years. Often, the MHSAA has taken action on health and safety issues before other governing bodies have produced mandates – for example, during the 1999-2000 season, MHSAA ice hockey players were required for the first time to wear neck guards that did not become mandatory nationally until this past winter.

More recently, the MHSAA instituted acclimatization rules specific to football and also limits on the amount of practice contact – to the minute – allowed per week. The MHSAA also has chimed in on air pollution created by wildfires, mosquito-borne eastern equine encephalitis and other situations that could potentially impact school sports, and partners with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan to provide nutrition information and awareness at events and on the MHSAA website.

These aren't the first subjects that come to mind when fans talk about school sports – and that's fine. But it's our job, with school administrators, coaches and officials, to always have them front of mind – and we gladly do so to keep sports as safe as possible for hundreds of thousands of athletes whose achievements remain our favorite topics of conversation as well.

SWEEPS

Continued from page B1

and second innings. The Tigers got their only baserunner of the day in the final inning of game two via a walk.

Dowagiac returns 10 letterwinners from the 2024 squad that finished the season 25-8.

Campbell, only a freshman, will pitch a majority of the innings for Dowagiac this Spring as the Lady Chieftains' No. 1 ace with Guernsey in the No. 2 role.

"She (Campbell) has really thrown well and kept us in some tough games so far this season against some good teams," Dowagiac's head coach said.

Carpenter. the team's starting shortstop and also a backup catcher, leads Dowagiac in batting average.

"Marlie is only a junior and has put alot of work in over the past few years. She's just very strong and a well-disciplined hitter," Mike Behnke said.

Guernsey is the Lady Chieftains' starting centerfielder when she's not pitching.

"Rebecca has played just about every position for us during her four-year varsity career. She's a person that always works hard and gives you 100 percent effort no matter what," Dowagiac's coach said.

> "We've had alot of different players who have helped us win several games this season. It's not just one player who contributes."
>
> **— Mike Behnke**

"We've had alot of different players who have helped us win several games this season. It's not just one player who contributes. Pitching, defense and timely hitting have been among our biggest strengths in the games that we've won this season. In some of our closer games we've just been able to get people on base and score when we need to," Mike Behnke said.

Winning a Lakeland Conference title and hoisting a district championship trophy are two of the Lady Chieftains' biggest goals.

"We haven't won a conference title here at Dowagiac since 2007 or a district since 2006," Mike Behnke said. "There have been countless many times thatr we've finished second in conference or fell short in districts."

Dowagiac's veteran head coach recently surpassed the 400-win mark for his coaching career with a doubleheader sweep of perennial state power Buchanan on April 16.

"It's nice to reach that kind of milestone but I tell people it means two things. The first one is that I'm old and I've been around awhile. Secondly, I've had some really good players and teams to be able to win that many games. It's the girls that have done it. I just try to get them in the right positions to win those games. They deserve more of the credit than I do," Mike Behnke said.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Commencement speakers, from left: Renato Recillas and Dajah Parker.

Four students to speak at 78th Lake Michigan College Commencement Ceremonies

Courtesy of Lake Michigan College

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Hailey Marbut, Renato Recillas, Ashley Ledin, and Dajah Parker have been selected as student speakers for Lake Michigan College's 78th annual commencement ceremonies, which will be held at 10 a.m. (Arts & Sciences and General Studies) and 1 p.m. (Career & Workforce and Health Sciences) on Sunday, May 4, at Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre on the Benton Harbor Campus, 2755 E. Napier Ave.

Student speakers are nominated by their peers, LMC faculty, and staff based on academic excellence, integrity, and compassion for their classmates.

Marbut, who will speak during the 10 a.m. ceremony, is a Bangor resident and a 2018 Hartford High School graduate. She graduates with an Associate in General Studies degree and was on the Part-time Dean's List. She plans to continue her studies in computer science technology to pursue an IT career.

"LMC has been a gateway to a better version of myself. When I began my journey with LMC in Fall of 2021, I felt completely derailed in my educational plans after the COVID-19 pandemic," Marbut said. "LMC helped me rediscover my passion for learning and reinforced my time management and organizational skills. I feel confident in my ability to translate these skills into my future professional and educational endeavors."

Recillas, who is from Fennville, will also speak during the 10 a.m. ceremony. He earns his Associate in Arts degree in Political Science with Highest Honors. He is concurrently graduating from Fennville High School as part of the LMC Early Middle College program and will transfer to the University of Michigan this fall to study political science.

Recillas was president of Student Senate, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and active in several other campus clubs. He represented LMC as part of the College's delegation to Model Illinois Government in Springfield, Illinois, and was recently named to the national ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's 2025 Student Voting Honor Roll.

"The Lake Michigan College community has allowed me to spread my wings and be who I am without fear of judgment," Recillas said. "Everyone I met, from staff to student, was always so welcoming and encouraging. I have made so many friends and have connections with people who have all made this experience unforgettable."

Ledin, who will speak at the 1 p.m. ceremony, earns an Associate in Applied Science degree in Business and a Certificate of Achievement in Digital Marketing with High Honors. She will continue studying business administration this fall at Siena Heights University.

The St. Joseph resident who earned her GED in 2008 was on the Dean's List three times while participating in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the Student Marketing Advisory Committee at LMC.

"LMC has meant a brighter future for my family. Through it all, I found confidence in myself and resilience to reach my goals. I look forward to my future and will always look back on my experience at LMC with pride," Ledin said.

Parker, who will also speak at the 1 p.m. ceremony, earns an Associate in Arts degree in Graphic Design and graduates with Highest Honors. She will attend Ferris State University this fall to major in graphic design.

The Benton Harbor resident, who is a 2023 graduate of Countryside Academy, was president of LMC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and the College's esports team. She was named to the All-Michigan Academic Team and was on the Dean's and President's Lists several times.

"Lake Michigan College not only has helped me grow my skills academically, but throughout my personal life," Dajah said. "Without the staff members who slowly became role models and mentors, I wouldn't have become the person I am now. They've inspired me to become the best version of myself, and even then, to strive for greater things."

During the May 4 ceremonies, 414 LMC students will receive 403 associate degrees, 11 advanced certificates, and 40 certificates of achievement with 49 areas of study represented.

Cass County narrows administrator search to two candidates

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Cass County Commissioners are a step closer to choosing a new county administrator after interviews with three applicants Thursday.

The position has been vacant since Matthew Newton resigned late last year and Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow has been serving as the interim administrator.

Belsky

Commissioners voted at the end of Thursday's interviews to bring back two of the applicants for a second round of interviews. The second round of interviews will be May 15 in the county courthouse. There will be a meet and greet for each candidate and interviews at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The three applicants interviewed Thursday were Michael Belsky, Kipling Belcher and Patrick Jordan. Each was asked to talk about their background and experience and answer questions on things like leadership, the role of the county administrator and their experience with budgets and grant writing.

Jordan

Belsky said he considers himself a Michigander as he has a family home in New Buffalo even though most of his career has been in Illinois. He served as an elected official in Illinois and worked there in the finance and municipal bond industry.

"What I can bring is a great deal of management experience," he said. "My style is very bottoms up, I work with those in the different departments to understand what the needs are and how I can make the work better for everyone."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Michael Belsky speaks during his interview.

He praised the county for its strong financial standing.

"There is a lot of good going on here," he said. "What I would like to do on day one is meet with the board and go over the strategic plan. It's also important to go to each department and spend a day and do some of the work."

Jordan told commissioners that he was a business owner and chef before going into public service when he was 38. He has a degree in public administration and served as the Muskegon Township supervisor before moving to Texas and then Alaska. He and his wife moved back to Michigan in 2015 and he was most recently the Ionia County administrator.

"The most important job of a county administrator is to see that your directives are carried out and disseminate your directives to the staff," he said. "The most important job of local government is the health, safety and welfare of the people."

"In the first 90 days, I would pour myself into the budget," he added. "I want to get to know you, the staff and elected officials and start to build networks in the community with stakeholders … I believe in direct communication with phone calls and face to face. They are the best way and I will give written reports on a regular basis."

The third candidate, Kipling Belcher, has had a long career with the Michigan State Police, most recently in an administrative capacity before his retirement.

Commissioners talked about the three candidates at the conclusion of the interviews and debated the way forward. Individual commissioners spoke in favor of and against the various candidates before agreeing to move forward with asking Belsky and Jordan back for second round interviews.

City council approves trio of Riverfront Park festivals

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Riverfront Park will be a popula destination for residents and visitors alike thi summer.

The council approved a trio of agenda item concerning the park, which included movin forward with annual events such as Riverfest, th Niles Bluegrass Festival and Jesus Fest. The thre events are organized by the Riverfront Optimis Club.

Riverfest will take place from Thursday, Aug. through Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Riverfront Parl Amphitheater and will feature music, carniva rides, games and food and craft vendors. The an nual festival serves as a fundraiser for the growt and development of the festival. The city wil close various streets and parking lots, provid police and fire services, electric and water usage use of Riverfront public park and facilities bu stopped short of waiving in-kind fees associate with the events.

The Niles Bluegrass Festival will take plac from Thursday, June 5 to Sunday, June 8 at th amphitheater and will feature several popula bluegrass and Americana acts as well as foo and beverage vendors.

Jesus Fest will take place from Thursday, Jul 10 through Sunday, July 13 at the ampitheate and will feature Christian music from a variet of genres as well as food, arts and crafts vendors

For all three Optimist Club events, police pres ence will be left at the discretion of Police Chie Jim Millin.

In other business, council:

• Approved the quote from Texas A&M Uni versity's Maritime Archaeology Conservatio Center of College Station, Texas in the amoun $3,744 for the conservation of iron architectura hardware with the cost paid for from a Frenc Heritage Society grant.

• Approved the quote from Double M Paintin Services of Dowagiac in the amount of $3,47 for phase two of painting at the Mansion, wit the cost to be covered from a private grant. Th History Center has received a private grant i the amount of $25,000 for painting upstairs a the Chapin Mansion. These rooms have not bee painted since City Hall moved out in 2012. Th walls and ceilings need painting; there are stains chips and shadowing left from modern office fix tures. The walls are mostly white, which does no match with the home's Victorian character.

While planning for this painting, some of th original wall and ceiling murals were uncov ered. Artist Bob Cross has worked to reveal thes patterns and designs. In order to preserve th murals with the hope that one day they can b restored, painting the walls and ceilings in thes rooms needs to be carefully approached. Mik Moroz of Double M Painting originally recom mended Bob Cross for the work of uncoverin murals and has submitted this proposal. Moro is skilled in historic house work and familia with Cross' techniques for uncovering murals.

Moroz serves as the President of the Under ground Railroad Society of Cass County and i working to restore the historic Bonine House Moroz will work with the History Center Di rector to repair, paint and improve the histori appearance of the rooms while taking care no to damage or cover any of the original murals The work is expected to take about two to thre weeks to complete and would begin in June.

• Approved updated investment policies fo trust accounts held by 1st Source Bank and au thorize the Mayor to sign the documents.

• Authorized the police department to pur chase a 2025 Chevrolet PPV 4WD Silverado for a Captain's vehicle from Berger Chevrolet of Grand Rapids, Michigan at the MiDeal contract price o $49,687, with the cost to be charged to the polic equipment replacement fund.

• Authorized the police department to ente into a contract with the Michigan State Polic Grants and Community Services Division, t utilize funding in the amount of $11,545 to pur chase a Live Scan fingerprint scanner with th City to be reimbursed that amount through th grant, and authorize the Mayor to sign the con tract.

• Authorized the Utilities Department - Elec tric Division to accept the bid of $110,389 from T & R Electric Supply Co. of Colman, South Dakot for the purchase of 56 pole mounted transform ers, with the expense to be charged to the trans formers budget.

• Authorized the Utilities Department - Waste water Division to accept the bid of $415,978 fron Advanced Rehabilitation Technology of Bryan Ohio, pursuant to a Purchasing Cooperative o America contract for the OBIC polyurea coatin of the chlorine contact tanks at the Wastewate Treatment Plant, charge the expense to thei Building and Buildings Equipment budget.

• Authorized the Utilities Department - Elec tric Division to accept the sole-source quote i the amount of $672,427.00 from Systems Contro of Iron Mountain, Michigan for a prefabricate control enclosure to be installed at the South side Substation during the 2026 upgrade, pend ing AEP approval of the enclosure and cost as a reimbursable expense.

• Approved the MERS Application for Addi tional Service Credit Purchase for Taner Dalen berg.

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Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Boats & Watercraft

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Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

Parts & Accessories

Cargo Trailer for Sale: 16x7
Drop-down rear door
One side door
New tires, very good condition
$2,700
574-850-2511

Services

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
•Flat work of all types
•Seawalls•Pole Barn Floors
•Stamped Concrete
•Bobcat Services
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
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"Quality is our Principle"
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Concrete Removal & Replacement, Decks, Driveways, Sidewalks, Pole Barns, Garages, Foundations, Patios
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No Job too Small!
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WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE
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STURGIS, MI 49091
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

Miscellaneous Services

AUCTION
Live & Online Cottle Estate Farm Auction in Pickford on May 17, 10 a.m. Featuring tractors & attachments, harvest, cattle equipment, welders, more! Directions, bidding visit MichiganAuction.com. Call Leist Auctioneers, 833-323-2243.

Check out our new online auctions at Bid.Sherwood AuctionServiceLLC.com. Firearms, ammo, tractors, vehicles, tools, 5th wheel, travel trailer, snowmobile, collectibles and much more. Bid now and visit often. Questions? Call Joe 1-800-835-0495.

May Online Consignment Auction bidding open! John Deere 8345R, New Holland B95C Backhoe & International Road tractors, farm implements, tools, more! Visit NarhiAuctions.com for

Miscellaneous Services

updates & to bid. Questions? Call 810-266-6474.

BUILDINGS
POLE BARNS We build ALL year long! BUILT BEST BARNS IN A RUSH? CALL US!!!! Best Quality, Best Service, Now In Our 25TH Year! Over 4,000 Buildings In Michigan Call for QUOTES License/Insured 989-205-2534

BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuilding-smi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010 or 989-324-0035.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattress-Man.com. 989-923-1278

MEDICAL
VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL $119.00! Shipped discreetly to your home. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 800-948-3881.

POND/LAKE
Weedgator: Eco-Friendly Pond & Lake removal tools. Can Cut, pull & rake. $150. Also have Cattail cutter $100. Veteran made in Mi. Contact www.weedgatorproducts.com or 989-529-3992.

MISCELLANEOUS
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-2853.

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE $350 today! 1-855-848-7401

Pressure Washing

J&H POWER WASHING
HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.
WHY CALL THE REST
WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

Do you have available jobs?
Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

Professional Services

"HONEY DO"
NEED A HAND?
WE'VE GOT 2!
WE STRIVE FOR PERFECTION!
SMALL JOBS ARE SPECIALTY.
FOR FREE ESTIMATES,
CALL 269-815-0711
COVERING SW, MI.

Tree Service

BIG MIKES TREE SERVICE & EXCAVATING LLC
- Residential & Commercial
- Tree Trimming/Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Snow Removal
- Firewood
- Excavating
- Lot & Land Clearing
- Demolition

Call/Text for a FREE ESTIMATE!
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EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE,
EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROJECT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

The Niles City Council will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments and input regarding the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Plan Amendment. The public hearing will be held at 6 P.M., May 19, 2025.
The purpose of the Project Plan is to secure approval of DWSRF funding for the replacement of aging water infrastructure, specifically lead water service lines, water mains, and a new well located within the City of Niles. The proposed projects would provide public health protection and improve water quality and reliability.
The City is requesting $3 Million in funding from EGLE for the proposed projects in this fiscal year. The estimated cost to complete all of the proposed projects is $35.4 Million. The estimated cost to a typical residential user for the associated $3 Million DWSRF loan is $1.50 per month. Any grants awarded to the City from the DWSRF program would reduce the estimated cost.
On or before May 19, 2025, copies of the draft Project Plan will be available for public review on the City of Niles' website at: http://www.nilesmi.org/departments_and_divisions/utilities_department/water.php. A printed hard copy will be available at the City Clerk Office, 3 rd Floor, 333 N. 2nd St. All interested parties are invited to present comments on the proposed Project Plan. Written comments may be submitted to the City of Niles, Attn. Madison Mosher, 333 N. 2 nd St, Niles, MI 49120, or via e-mail to: 2022waterproject@nilesmi.net. Comments must be received no later than May 16, in order for them to be considered as part of the public record.

Niles Daily Star:
May 3, 2025
HEARING 05.19.25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street, Niles, MI, 49120 intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment.
The sale will occur at the facility on 5/16/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #K013; Unit #N211. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Apr. 26 and May 3, 2025
LNS-3314-2025_04_14

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Niles will be flushing fire hydrants during the day, starting Monday, May 12, 2025. Flushing will begin at 7:00 A.M. and continue until 4:00 P.M. each day through Friday, May 16, 2025. This routine maintenance ensures high-quality water and supports reliable fire protection. Some customers may experience discoloration of water or lower water pressure – don't worry, the following tips can help to reduce any potential problems this may cause:

1. Do not wash laundry between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Before you start, run your water until the temperature of the water changes to cold. In doing so, you should be able to detect red water before you start your wash.
2. If you experience red water in your wash, do not dry the load of clothes; leave them wet. A powder may be obtained at no charge from the Utilities Department office that will remove stains. Do not use bleach to remove iron stains as this will oxidize the stain and make it impossible to remove.
3. Although the City of Niles provides water to your residence, persistent red stains could be coming from your own house plumbing, especially if your pipes are galvanized.
4. You should flush your water heater at least two times a month; more frequently if you have experienced red water.
5. You should apply an approved iron removal chemical to your water softener's mineral bed.
6. Maintain aerators on faucets, and clean inlet screens on washing machines.
7. If you experience red water in your laundry at a time when the Utilities Department office is not open, you can obtain iron removal products at supermarkets and drug stores. If you cannot find polyphosphates, oxalic acid can be purchased at drug stores.

Tentative schedule as follows:
Monday, March 18th, valving will be conducted and flushing started at 17th from Lake St. to Main St.
East, and 17th / 13th South to Eagle.
Tuesday, March 19th, flushing will continue at 17th / 13th South to Oak, 13th / 3rd South to Oak, Oak South to Fort, and 5th North to Pucker.
Wednesday, March 20th, flushing will be conducted from 5th East to Niles River.

Thursday, March 21st, flushing will be conducted from Niles River West, Lincoln, Parkway, Sarka, Ballard Hills, Platt, Kensington, Missions and missions. Friday, March 22nd , Finish Balarney area, flushing will be completed West Chicago to Bertrand.

James Stevens
Water Superintendent
Niles Utilities Department

Niles Daily Star:
May 3, 2025
HYDRANTS

Looking for a home?
Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Niles Daily Star:
Apr. 26 and May 3, 2025
LNS-3314-2025_04_14

PUBLIC NOTICE

SYNOPSIS
OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Christensen, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Bolock and Marchetti were present. Trustee Kozinski was absent.
Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of the Agenda
Public comment
Approval of Consent Agenda
Commissioner Report
Committee Board Reports: Wastewater, Zoning, Ambulance, Buildings & Grounds, Planning, Police, Adamsville Cemetery, Fire Board
Old Business: Elkhart Road Project
New Business: Adamsville Cemetery Sexton Appointment, Appointment for Ambulance Board, Garver Lakes Fireworks Permit, Tax Foreclosure properties.
Schedule of township meetings: Board of Trustees May 12 at 6pm, Ambulance Board, May 14, Police Board May 8, Wastewater Board April 23.
The township will be closed April 18 for Good Friday. Meeting Adjourned 6:50pm.
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org
Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Meryl Christensen

Niles Daily Star:
May 3, 2025
SYNOPSIS 04.14.25

THE CITY OF NILES
WILL BE
FLUSHING HYDRANTS

BEGINNING

MONDAY, May 12
through
FRIDAY, May 16
7:00am until 4:00pm each day

CITY OF NILES
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

DEALS ON WHEELS

0 DOWN DELIVERS!

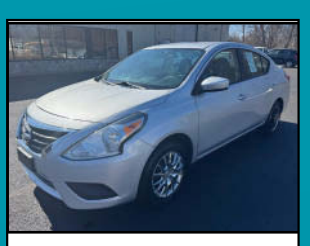
ON THE SPOT FINANCING

Selling Fast!
Buy Now
Before Prices go Higher

2015 CHEVY CRUZ LTZ
Just in!!
Fully serviced with every option
Only $5,900

2014 CHEVY SONIC LT
Fully service and ready to go
Only $5,900

CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE
Extremely rare, low miles
Only $9,900

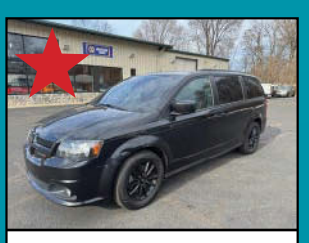


2019 NISSAN VERSA
Just in!!
35mpg, fully serviced and ready to go
Only $9,900

2016 KIA SOUL
Only 62,000 miles, save thousands on this low miler
Only $11,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!!
Only 53,000 miles
Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900



2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum
Only $13,900

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

INFINITY Q56 PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition for only
Only $16,900

2021 KIA SOUL
Just in!!
Save Save Save
Only $17,900

2018 MAZDA CX9 AWD
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $17,900

2019 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
A bird flew over this one and we heard it say cheap cheap cheap!
Only $17,900

1999 FORD F-250 CLUB CAB XLT
This is a one owner in mint condition with low miles and very sought after 7.3 diesel
Only $19,900

2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER
Like new with full power options
Only $21,900

2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Off lease, one owner, super low miles, 7 passenger with every option
Only $22,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2018 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles
Only $24,900

2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item
Only $24,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!
Only $29,900

2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!
Only $29,900

2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4 X 4
Just in!! Only 46,000 miles with the Coyote V-8!!
Only $33,900

2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
Just in!!
8,000 miles with every option!!
Only $33,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE, one owner with EVERY option
Only 13,000 miles
Only $43,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only $49,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC